

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 484 401 B1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(45) Date of publication and mention
of the grant of the patent:
11.09.1996 Bulletin 1996/37

(51) Int Cl.⁶: **C12N 15/12, C12N 15/18,
C12N 5/10, A61K 38/27**

(21) Application number: **90911525.5**

(86) International application number:
PCT/US90/04227

(22) Date of filing: **27.07.1990**

(87) International publication number:
WO 91/02058 (21.02.1991 Gazette 1991/05)

(54) **PRODUCTION OF VASCULAR ENDOTHELIAL CELL GROWTH FACTOR**
HERSTELLUNG DES VASKULÄREN ENDOTHELIALEN ZELLWACHSTUMSFAKTORS
PRODUCTION DE FACTEUR DE CROISSANCE DE CELLULES ENDOTHELIALES VASCULAIRES

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE DK ES FR GB IT LI LU NL SE

(56) References cited:
EP-A- 0 370 989 WO-A-90/11084
WO-A-90/13649

(30) Priority: **27.07.1989 US 387545**
14.12.1989 US 450883

(43) Date of publication of application:
13.05.1992 Bulletin 1992/20

(73) Proprietor: **SCIOS NOVA INC.**
Mountain View, CA 94043 (US)

(72) Inventors:
• **TISCHER, Edmund, G.**
Palo Alto, CA 94303 (US)
• **ABRAHAM, Judith, A.**
Sunnyvale, CA 94086 (US)
• **FIDDES, John, C.**
Palo Alto, CA 94301 (US)
• **MITCHELL, Richard, L.**
Woodinville Washington 98072 (US)

(74) Representative: **Goldin, Douglas Michael et al**
J.A. KEMP & CO.
14, South Square
Gray's Inn
London WC1R 5LX (GB)

- **BIOCHEMICAL AND BIOPHYSICAL RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS**, vol. 161, no. 2, 15th June 1989, pages 851-858, Academic Press Inc., Duluth, Minnesota, US; **N. FERRARA et al.**
- **SCIENCE**, vol. 231, 7th March 1986, pages 1150-1154, Washington, DC, US; **G.L. GREENE et al.**
- **INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CANCER**, vol. 36, no. 4, 15th October 1985, pages 473-478, Alan R. Liss, Inc., Geneva, CH; **R.R. LOBB et al.**
- **SCIENCE**, vol. 246, no. 4935, 8th December 1989, pages 1306-1309, Washington, DC, US; **D.W. LEUNG et al.**
- **JOURNAL OF NEUROSURGERY**, vol. 69, no. 2, August 1988, pages 254-262, Baltimore, US; **G.R. CRISCUOLO et al.**
- **BIOCHEMICAL AND BIOPHYSICAL RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS**, vol. 165, no. 3, 29th December 1989, pages 1198-1206, Academic Press Inc., Duluth, Minnesota, US; **E. TISCHER et al.**
- **EXPERIMENTAL CELL RESEARCH**, vol. 169, issued 1987, **CHEN et al**, pages 287-295

Note: Within nine months from the publication of the mention of the grant of the European patent, any person may give notice to the European Patent Office of opposition to the European patent granted. Notice of opposition shall be filed in a written reasoned statement. It shall not be deemed to have been filed until the opposition fee has been paid. (Art. 99(1) European Patent Convention).

EP 0 484 401 B1

DescriptionBackground of the Invention

5 The invention relates to the field of wound healing. In particular, the invention relates to the production of a wound healing agent that is mitogenic for vascular endothelial cells and consequently is useful in promoting neovascularization (angiogenesis) and re-endothelialization of inner vascular surfaces. The invention provides methods and means for producing vascular endothelial cell growth factor by means of recombinant DNA technology.

10 Angiogenesis, i.e. the growth of new capillary blood vessels, is a process which is crucial to the proper healing of many types of wounds. Consequently, factors that are capable of promoting angiogenesis are useful as wound healing agents. Angiogenesis is a multi-step process involving capillary endothelial cell proliferation, migration and tissue penetration. A number of known growth factors, including basic and acidic fibroblast growth factor, transforming growth factor alpha and epidermal growth factor, are broadly mitogenic for a variety of cell types as well as being angiogenic and are, therefore, potentially useful in promoting tissue repair. Broad spectrum mitogenicity is desirable in many types of wound healing applications. There are, however, specific types of wound healing applications in which it would be desirable to have a more cell-specific mitogenic activity. For example, following vascular graft surgery, balloon angioplasty or to promote collateral circulation in post-myocardial infarction patients, it would be desirable to employ a wound healing agent incorporating a mitogenic factor having mitogenic activity that is highly specific for vascular endothelial cells since proliferation of other cell types along with endothelial cells could cause blockage and/or reduced blood flow. At present, no highly suitable mitogenic factor is widely available for this type of application.

20 Recently, a mitogen apparently specific for vascular endothelial cells was isolated from media conditioned by bovine folliculo stellate cells and its partial amino acid sequence determined (Gospodarowicz et al., PNAS (1989) 86(19): 7311-7315; Ferrara and Henzel, BBRC (1989) 161(2):851-858). This factor appears to be a homodimer of two approximately 23 kD subunits. A partially homologous factor that is the mouse homolog of the bovine protein described by Gospodarowicz et al. and Ferrara et al. has also been isolated from the conditioned media of murine AtT20 cells (ATCC CCL 89) and its N-terminal amino acid sequence determined (Plouët et al., EMBO J. (1989) 8(12):3801-3806). Both factors have been demonstrated to have mitogenic activity for vascular endothelial cells and for none of the other cell types tested and are therefore useful in a number of types of wound healing applications. Unfortunately, it is not practical and economical to obtain commercial quantities of these factors by purification from their native sources.

Summary of the Invention

35 The present invention provides methods and means for obtaining commercial scale quantities of vascular endothelial cell growth factor for use as a wound healing agent. In particular, the present invention provides DNA sequences that encode amino acid sequences of bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor having the amino acid sequence 1 to 114 followed by 159 to 164 shown in Figure 6 wherein amino acid 114 is Lysine and human vascular endothelial cell growth factor having the amino acid sequence 1 to 115 followed by 160 to 165 shown in Figure 7 wherein amino acid 115 is Lysine. These DNA sequences are inserted into expression vectors under the control of regulatory elements that direct the expression of the encoded amino acid sequences in a suitable expression host. The vascular endothelial cell growth factor expressed in this manner can be recovered and formulated into pharmaceutical compositions that are useful in a variety of wound healing applications in which angiogenesis and/or re-endothelialization play an important role.

45 The invention relates to the isolated DNA sequences, encoding bVEGF₁₂₀ and hVEGF₁₂₁ replicable expression vectors capable of directing expression of such sequences in host cells, host cells transformed with such vectors and methods of producing the vascular endothelial cell growth factors which comprise culturing such cells.

50 The invention further provides the vascular endothelial cell growth factors, bVEGF₁₂₀ and hVEGF₁₂₁ in isolated form and in pharmaceutical compositions. The invention also relates to proteins useful in inhibiting angiogenesis comprising a heterodimer of two different subunits, one of which is hVEGF₁₂₁ having the amino acid sequence 1 to 115 followed by 160 to 165 shown in Figure 7 wherein amino acid 115 is Lysine and the other of which is hVEGF₁₆₅, having the amino acid sequence 1 to 165 shown in Figure 7, or hVPF₁₈₉ (human vascular permeability factor), and the use of such proteins in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of an individual by inhibiting angiogenesis, as well as pharmaceutical compositions containing them. The invention also provides chimeric proteins comprising an A-chain or B-chain subunit of platelet-derived growth factor and a bVEGF₁₂₀ or hVEGF₁₂₁ subunit.

55 The invention yet further relates to neutralising antibodies specific to bVEGF₁₂₀ or hVEGF₁₂₁, pharmaceutical compositions containing them and use of such antibodies in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of an individual by inhibiting angiogenesis. The invention also provides an analog of hVEGF₁₂₁ in which the cysteine residue at position 116 has been substituted by a different amino acid residue.

In the course of providing the DNA sequences herein that encode vascular endothelial cell growth factor, we dis-

covered that two different forms of the coding region are produced in vivo in the mRNA for the factor. These two forms, which apparently arise through alternative message splicing, differ in the length of the open reading frame due to the presence or absence of a 44-codon insert in the mature protein coding region. The predicted higher molecular weight factor, comprising a 164-amino acid sequence in the bovine case and a 165-amino acid sequence in the human case, is believed to correspond to the approximately 23 kD subunit isolated by Gospodarowicz et al. (supra) and by Ferrara and Henzel (supra). The novel, lower molecular weight factor predicted from the coding region lacking the insert comprises a 120-amino acid sequence in the bovine case and 121-amino acid sequence in the human case. The lower molecular weight form differs not only in the length of the amino acid sequence, but also in the presence of a Lys residue at position 114 in the bovine protein (position 115 in the human protein) that is not present in the higher molecular weight form because of the differential message splicing which occurs within the corresponding codon at this position. For convenience, these two forms of vascular endothelial cell growth factor will be referred to, respectively, as bVEGF₁₆₄ and bVEGF₁₂₀ for the bovine factor (hVEGF₁₆₅ and hVEGF₁₂₁ for the human factor).

The 121-amino acid form of hVEGF and the corresponding 120-amino acid bovine protein differ in their properties from hVEGF₁₆₅ and bVEGF₁₆₄ in a manner which provides therapeutic advantages in the clinical use of the protein. In particular, hVEGF₁₂₁ and bVEGF₁₂₀ do not bind heparin, whereas the longer forms are characterized by strong heparin binding. The absence of heparin binding affinity leaves more of the protein free to bind to vascular endothelial cell growth factor receptor and increases the half-life and distribution of the protein in circulation.

Surprisingly, the amino acid sequence deduced from N-terminal sequence analysis and an isolated DNA sequence (shown in Fig. 3a) indicates a significant level of sequence homology between bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor and corresponding sequences from each of the A-chain and B-chain subunits of human platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF), with complete conservation of eight cysteine residues among the mature forms of all three sequences. Accordingly, hybrid dimeric proteins can be prepared comprising a first polypeptide chain and a second polypeptide chain, wherein one of the chains comprises at least a portion of the amino acid sequence of the A-chain or the B-chain subunit of platelet-derived growth factor and the other chain comprises at least a portion of the amino acid sequence of vascular endothelial cell growth factor. Preparation of the hybrid proteins allows one to "tailor" the properties of the molecule such that the hybrid exhibits a profile of mitogenic activity between that of vascular endothelial cell growth factor and platelet-derived growth factor. The PDGF B-B homodimer is mitogenic for vascular smooth muscle cells but not for vascular endothelial cells. Conversely, the vascular endothelial cell growth factor of the present invention has the opposite specificity. A hybrid factor may stimulate both cell types and therefore be useful as a broader-spectrum mitogen in wound healing therapies.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 is a representation of five DNA sequences generated by a modification of the polymerase chain reaction process. One of the five (pET-19A; clone no. 5) encodes amino acids no. 15 to 38 of the mature, sequenced form of bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor. The figure also includes a consensus DNA sequence derived from the five DNA sequences, as well as a translation of pET-19A. Each sequence includes DNA linkers at either end which represent an EcoRI restriction site and a HindIII restriction site.

Fig. 2 is a schematic representation of the method by which the five DNAs of Fig. 1 were generated and amplified from bovine folliculo stellate cell mRNA.

Fig. 3a is a representation of a DNA sequence, as well as its deduced amino acid sequence, derived from a clone, designated 11B'. The illustrated sequence encodes amino acids no. 15 to 120 of bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor (bVEGF₁₂₀). Fig. 3b is a representation of a synthetic DNA sequence, based on preferred codon usage in human cells, which encodes amino acids no. 1 to 19 of bVEGF₁₂₀ and which overlaps the 5' end of the DNA sequence of Fig. 3a. This synthetic DNA can be enzymatically joined to the isolated DNA sequence of Fig. 3a, after the DNA sequence in Fig. 3a has been digested with the restriction enzyme AclI, to produce a DNA sequence encoding the full length, mature bVEGF₁₂₀ protein.

Fig. 4 is a representation of isolated DNA sequences encoding the A-chain and B-chain subunits of human platelet-derived growth factor, and the amino acid sequences of the precursors of these two proteins as deduced from the DNA sequences.

Fig. 5 is a photograph of an ethidium bromide stained polyacrylamide gel containing DNA produced by amplification of a portion of the mRNA encoding bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor.

Fig. 6 is a representation of the isolated cDNA sequences encoding bVEGF₁₂₀ and bVEGF₁₆₄. The boxed DNA sequence beginning at base 342 represents the insert sequence that is present in the alternatively spliced cDNA which encodes bVEGF₁₆₄. The amino acid sequence given immediately below the nucleotide sequence represents the deduced sequence for bVEGF₁₆₄. The deduced amino acid sequence for bVEGF₁₂₀ is identical to that of bVEGF₁₆₄ through position 113 (Glu). The carboxyl-terminal sequence of bVEGF₁₂₀, beginning at position 111 (Arg) is given in italics below the bVEGF₁₆₄ sequence in Fig. 6.

Fig. 7 is a representation of the native human DNA sequences encoding the mature forms of human vascular endothelial cell growth factor, hVEGF₁₂₁ and hVEGF₁₆₅. The DNA sequences shown represent composites of sequences obtained from human genomic and human cDNA clones. The bracketed amino acid (Gly) encoded by codon 7 represents an inserted amino acid relative to the sequences of bVEGF₁₂₀ and bVEGF₁₆₄.

Fig. 8 is a representation of portions of the DNA sequences of the overlapping genomic inserts in two bacteriophages, which together contain eight exons encoding the various forms of hVEGF, along with contiguous splice junctions

Fig. 9 is a representation of two oligonucleotide primers used to amplify a full length cDNA sequence for hVEGF₁₂₁ from U937 cell mRNA.

Fig. 10a is a schematic representation of pLEN, an expression vector used to express hVEGF₁₂₁ in Chinese hamster ovary cell culture. Fig. 10b is a schematic representation of pMTN, another expression vector used to express hVEGF₁₂₁ in Chinese hamster ovary cell culture.

Detailed Description of the Invention

As used herein, the term "vascular endothelial cell growth factor" refers to a mammalian protein that has mitogenic activity for vascular endothelial cells and that:

- (a) has an amino acid sequence which either is encoded by a DNA sequence that is capable of hybridizing, under standard hybridization conditions, to the DNA sequence shown in Fig. 3a; or
- (b) is substantially homologous to the amino acid sequence of bVEGF₁₂₀, bVEGF₁₆₄, hVEGF₁₂₁ or hVEGF₁₆₅, shown in Fig. 6 and Fig. 7.

An amino acid sequence is considered to be "substantially homologous" herein if the level of amino acid sequence homology is at least 50% and, preferably at least 80%, compared with the protein in question. "Standard hybridization conditions", as used herein means the use of 40% Formamide Buffer (described below) as the prehybridization/hybridization buffer and washing in 1 x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50°C.

The amino acid sequence numbering system used herein for vascular endothelial cell growth factor is based on the mature forms of the protein, i.e. the post-translationally processed forms. Accordingly, the residue numbered one in the bovine or human proteins is alanine, which is the first residue of the isolated, mature forms of these proteins.

Mitogenic activity for vascular endothelial cells can be determined by an assay which uses, as target cells, adrenal cortex-derived capillary endothelial cells (ACE cells). This assay is carried out essentially as described in Gospodarowicz et al., *J. Cell Physiol.* (1986) 127:121-136, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. Generally, stock cultures of ACE cells are maintained in the presence of Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM-21) supplemented with 10% calf serum. The antibiotics penicillin (50 IU/ml), streptomycin (50 µg/ml), gentamycin (50 µg/ml), and Fungizone (0.25 µg/ml) and 2mM L-glutamine can also be added to the medium. Cells are passaged weekly on tissue culture dishes at a split ratio of between 1:40 and 1:200 (the preferred split ratio is that which gives 2.5 x 10⁵ cells in 15 ml of medium in T75 flasks). For the mitogenic assay, cells are seeded in 12 well cluster plates at a density of 5 x 10³ cells per well in 1 ml Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium supplemented with 10% calf serum and antibiotics as described in Gospodarowicz et al., *Europ. J. Cell. Biol.* (1988) 46:144-151.

Alternatively, the ACE cells are plated in 35 mm dishes or 6 well cluster plates at a density of 5 - 10 x 10³ cells per dish or well in 2 ml of medium as described in Gospodarowicz, et al., *J. Cell Physiol.* (1986) 127:121-136. Ten-microliter aliquots of appropriate dilutions of each sample are then added to duplicate or triplicate wells in the dishes on days 0 and 2. After 4 or 5 days in culture, the plates are trypsinized and cell densities determined in a Coulter counter. For purposes of description herein, a factor is considered to have mitogenic activity for vascular endothelial cells if the cell density at the end of this assay is at least 1.5 times and preferably at least 3 times the cell density of control wells receiving no factor additions.

Although the DNA sequence illustrated in Fig. 3a was obtained from a bovine cell cDNA library, and therefore represents a sequence which encodes a bovine protein, the DNA sequence provided allows for the retrieval of sequences encoding homologous proteins from other mammalian species. Accordingly, we have employed the illustrated bovine sequence as a probe to retrieve DNA sequences encoding the corresponding human proteins.

Also included within the scope of "vascular endothelial cell growth factor" herein are biologically active fragments thereof, as well as N-terminally or C-terminally extended versions thereof or analogs thereof substituting and/or deleting or inserting one or more amino acid residues which retain qualitatively the biological activities of the protein described herein. Preferred analogs include those in which one or more cysteine residues not required for biological activity are substituted by a different amino acid residue, preferably serine.

Substitution of one or more cysteine residues reduces the opportunity for intermolecular and intramolecular disulfide bond formation, thereby rendering the molecule more stable. There are nine cysteine residues that are present in

hVEGF₁₂₁, bVEGF₁₂₀, hVEGF₁₆₅ and bVEGF₁₆₄. Of these, eight are conserved with PDGF. Accordingly, the most preferred analog is one in which the ninth cysteine residue is substituted by serine. This cysteine residue is present at position 160 of hVEGF₁₆₅ and position 116 of hVEGF₁₂₁ and the corresponding positions in the bovine forms. Amino acid substitutions can be accomplished by site specific mutagenesis of the DNA sequences described herein using well known techniques (see, e.g., Zoller, M.J. and Smith, M., *Nucleic Acids Research* (1982) 10:6487-6500).

While the native form of the bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor described herein is apparently glycosylated, there is currently no evidence that glycosylation is essential for biological activity. Accordingly, biologically active non-glycosylated or partially glycosylated forms, which will be produced by prokaryotic or eukaryotic hosts using the expression sequences provided herein, are included within the scope of "vascular endothelial cell growth factor".

Expression of DNA sequences encoding vascular endothelial cell growth factor in Chinese hamster ovary cell culture under the conditions described herein resulted in approximately 50% of the expressed VEGF being modified by N-linked glycosylation. There is a single site for N-linked glycosylation at the Asn residue at position 75 of hVEGF₁₂₁ (corresponding to position 75 of hVEGF₁₆₅ and position 74 of bVEGF₁₂₀ and bVEGF₁₆₄). Furthermore, following expression of hVEGF₁₂₁ and secretion into cell culture media, we have isolated dimeric protein species which correspond in molecular weight to dimers of vascular endothelial cell growth factor in which both subunits are either glycosylated or unglycosylated and dimers in which one of the subunits is glycosylated and the other is not glycosylated.

Vascular endothelial cell growth factor--as isolated by Gospodarowicz et al. (*supra*) and by Ferrara and Henzel (*supra*)--is a dimeric protein of approximately 45-46 kD, as determined by SDS polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. Bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor was obtained in homogeneous form from cell culture media conditioned by folliculo stellate cells, by a process which involved the steps of ammonium sulfate precipitation; heparin-Sepharose affinity chromatography; size-exclusion gel chromatography; cation exchange chromatography; and reverse phase high performance liquid chromatography. Similar procedures may be employed to purify a corresponding protein from conditioned media of cultured cells from other mammalian species which are known to produce vascular endothelial cell growth factor, for example, murine A120 cells. We have also determined, by Northern blot analyses, that human fetal vascular smooth muscle cells are a good source of human vascular endothelial cell growth factor and mRNA encoding the factor.

Isolated bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor obtained as described above was sequenced using the Edman degradation technique on an automated gas-phase protein sequencer. A single major 24-amino acid N-terminal sequence was obtained, indicating that the protein is homodimeric. Following tryptic digestion of the protein and amino acid sequencing of various peptide fragments, it was determined, according to overlapping amino acid sequences, that the bovine protein has the following 41-amino acid N-terminal sequence*:

A P M A E G G Q K P H E V V K F M D V Y Q R S F C R P I E T
L V D I F Q E Y P D E

(*Using the standard single letter abbreviation code for amino acids)

Using the N-terminal amino acid sequence for bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor described above, a number of unsuccessful efforts were made to retrieve a full or partial length cDNA encoding the protein by probing a folliculo stellate cell cDNA library using degenerate oligonucleotide probe mixtures encoding portions of the amino acid sequence. The DNA segment of Fig. 3a was ultimately retrieved from the cDNA library using a probe generated by amplifying that portion of the nucleotide sequence encoding amino acids 15 to 38 (and two-thirds of the codon for amino acid 39) by a modification of the polymerase chain reaction method. The polymerase chain reaction method for amplifying a desired DNA sequence is described in detail in U.S. Patents No. 4,683,202 and 4,683,195. The procedure allows the amplification of a desired nucleotide sequence, even if the bulk of the sequence is not known, provided one is able to provide oligonucleotide primers that will hybridize to either end of the sequence that it is desired to amplify. The polymerase chain reaction process has been employed to amplify a desired segment of cDNA using degenerate oligonucleotides as primers (Lee et al., *Science* (1988) 1288-1291).

The DNA probe used to retrieve the cDNA of Fig. 3a was selected from the five homologous sequences shown in Fig. 1. These sequences were obtained by a procedure which is illustrated schematically in Fig. 2 and which is described in greater detail in the examples which follow. In accordance with the illustrated procedure, poly(A)⁺ RNA from bovine folliculo stellate cells was precipitated with an anti-sense primer consisting of a 16-fold degenerate synthetic oligonucleotide mixture based on the amino acid sequence of amino acids no. 35 to 39 of bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor. The 24-base oligonucleotide primer consisted of 14 bases reflecting the amino acid sequence, with a 10-base EcoRI linker on the 5' end. The oligonucleotide primer sequences in the mixture which hybridized to the poly(A)⁺ RNA served to prime the synthesis of a DNA strand complementary to a section of the desired mRNA in the presence of deoxynucleotide triphosphates (dNTPs) and reverse transcriptase. A second DNA strand, complementary to the first synthesized strand, was then prepared by hybridizing the first synthesized strand to a sense-strand primer consisting of an 8-fold degenerate synthetic 24-base oligonucleotide mixture based on the amino acid sequence of

amino acids no. 15 to 19 of bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor. The second strand oligonucleotide primer contained a 14-base region reflecting the amino acid sequence, joined to a 10-base HindIII linker on the 5' end. The oligonucleotide primer sequences in the mixture which hybridized to the first synthesized DNA strand served to prime the synthesis of a second DNA strand in the presence of dNTPs and DNA polymerase I, Klenow fragment. Since the 10 base linker sequence in the primer could not hybridize to the first strand DNA, second strand synthesis was carried out at a temperature, i.e. 28°C, at which the remaining 14 nucleotides could be expected to remain hybridized to the first strand DNA. DNA polymerase I, Klenow fragment, was used for the second strand synthesis, since *Thermus aquaticus* (Taq) DNA polymerase, which is normally used in the polymerase chain reaction, would not be effective to catalyze DNA synthesis at this temperature. Second strand synthesis produced a sense strand coding for that portion of bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor extending from amino acid no. 15 to amino acid no. 38 (and including two-thirds of the codon for amino acid 39).

The two synthesized DNA strands were then separated and the desired sequence was amplified by a repeated sequence of reactions in which the single stranded DNAs were used as templates for the synthesis of complementary strands in the presence of both the sense- and anti-sense oligonucleotide primer mixtures and *Thermus aquaticus* (Taq) DNA polymerase. After each synthesis of complementary strands, the reaction mixture was heated to separate the strands and the reaction was repeated.

After 30 cycles of amplification, the DNA from the polymerase chain reaction mixture was subjected to electrophoresis on a 6% polyacrylamide gel. The DNA in the gel was stained with ethidium bromide and the band having the appropriate size for the coding sequence for amino acids 15 to 38 (and two-thirds of the codon for amino acid 39) together with the HindIII and EcoRI linkers from the priming oligonucleotides was cut from the gel. The ethidium bromide stained gel is shown in the photograph of Fig. 5, where the dominant band representing the desired amplified sequence can be clearly visualized. DNA was electroeluted from the excised gel fragment containing the dominant band, digested with HindIII and EcoRI and ligated into HindIII- and EcoRI-cut M13mp19 and M13mp18 phage vectors. DNA sequence analysis of white plaques isolated after transformation of the ligation mixtures into *E. coli* JM103 host cells demonstrated that a cDNA sequence encoding amino acids 15 to 38 (and containing two-thirds of the codon for amino acid 39) of vascular endothelial cell growth factor indeed had been obtained. The amplified DNA sequence contained in one of these recombinant phage (pET-19A) was employed as a probe to retrieve a cloned cDNA sequence from a bovine folliculo stellate cell cDNA library. The isolated cloned sequence consisted of an 797-base pair insert coding for all but the 14 N-terminal amino acids of one of the mature forms of bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor. The isolated cloned insert was ligated into the EcoRI site of pUC8 to create the plasmid designated pST800. The insert contained the nucleotide sequence shown in Fig. 3a (in Fig. 3a, the EcoRI linkers on each end of the insert are not shown; hence the sequence is numbered beginning with nucleotide 7 of the insert). The coding region of amino acids no. 15 to 120 of bVEGF₁₂₀ is represented by nucleotides no. 9 to 326 of Fig. 3a.

The amino acid sequence predicted from the isolated DNA sequence shown in Fig. 3a contains one potential site for N-linked glycosylation at the asparagine residue at amino acid no. 74 (corresponding to amino acid no. 75 in the human form). Since an N-linked glycosylation of approximately 3 kD at this site would predict a total molecular weight of about 17 kD for the encoded protein, which is considerably smaller than the apparent molecular weight of 23 kD observed for the vascular endothelial cell growth factor subunits isolated by Gospodarowicz et al. and by Ferrara and Henzel, it is apparent that the isolated cDNA encodes a different form of vascular endothelial cell growth factor than that previously observed. A polymerase chain reaction experiment indicated that alternative forms of the vascular endothelial cell growth factor coding region exist.

A polymerase chain reaction was primed from folliculo stellate poly(A)⁺ RNA using a sense oligonucleotide corresponding to bases 70-126 in Fig. 6, and an antisense oligonucleotide corresponding to bases 513-572. Polyacrylamide gel analysis of the products after digestion with BstNI (which cuts within each of the primers) revealed two major species of approximately 300 and 450 bp. Both of these products were subcloned into M13 vectors and sequenced. The DNA sequence of the smaller product (311 bp) corresponded to that predicted if the PCR amplified the cDNA sequence carried in pST800. The sequence of the larger fragment was identical to that of the 311 bp product, except for an insert of 132 bp (boxed sequence in Fig. 6). Analysis of human vascular endothelial cell growth factor genomic clones, obtained as described below, has indicated that this insert occurs at an exon-intron junction, suggesting that the two forms of the coding region arise through alternative exon splicing.

The DNA sequences shown in Fig. 1 or Fig. 3a are useful in the retrieval of DNA coding for full length bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor, or for the corresponding vascular endothelial cell growth factor of other species, including the corresponding human protein, or for related proteins in the same gene family as vascular endothelial cell growth factor.

To obtain bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor cDNA clones containing sequence information upstream from that present in pST800 (Fig. 3a), we employed a modification of the "RACE" polymerase chain reaction technique described by Frohman, M.A. et al., *PNAS (USA)* (1988) 85:8998-9002. A linker was ligated onto the 5' end of the duplex resulting from primer extension of the vascular endothelial cell growth factor mRNA, after which polymerase chain

reaction was carried out using as primers the original primer-extension oligonucleotide and an oligonucleotide complementary to the linker. Sequence analysis of the resulting polymerase chain reaction products, after digestion of the primers with HindIII and subcloning into M13 vectors, gave sequences encoding the mature amino terminus of vascular endothelial cell growth factor (Fig. 6). The longest cDNA clone obtained extended 14 bp 5' to the beginning of the mature protein coding region (AGTGGTCCCAGGCTGCACCC...), revealing four additional amino acids of the vascular endothelial cell growth factor precursor (WSQAAPHA...).

In order to retrieve DNA sequences for the human forms of vascular endothelial cell growth factor, the sequences in Fig. 1, Fig. 3a, or Fig. 6, preferably the sequences of Fig. 3a or Fig. 6 or segments thereof, are used as probes to retrieve the desired sequences from cDNA or genomic libraries. Genomic libraries can be prepared by known techniques and are now widely commercially available. A suitable genomic DNA library from which genomic DNA sequences encoding human vascular endothelial cell growth factor can be isolated is a human fibroblast genomic library (Stratagene Inc., La Jolla, CA). This library, obtained from the W138 cell line, harbors >15 kb DNA inserts in the Lambda FIXTM vector. Alternatively, a genomic library can be prepared by the technique disclosed by Frischauf, A.M. in Methods in Enzymology, eds. Berger, S.L. and Kimmel, A.R., Vol. 152, pp. 190-199 (1987) Academic Press, N.Y. Methods for preparing cDNA libraries are also well known to those skilled in the art (see, e.g., Kimmel, A.R. and Berger, S.L., ibid., pp. 307-316). Preferably, the cDNA library is prepared from a cell line or tissue source which actively produces vascular endothelial cell growth factor. For the isolation of a cDNA sequence encoding the human protein, it is preferred to employ a cDNA library prepared from fetal human vascular smooth muscle cells. A DNA sequence encoding vascular endothelial cell growth factor, which is obtained as described above, is inserted into a suitable expression vector under the control of regulatory sequences capable of directing expression of the DNA sequence in a desired host. If the DNA sequence retrieved is a genomic sequence containing introns, then it is desirable to insert the sequence into an expression vector that is compatible with a eukaryotic host. Expression of the genomic DNA encoding vascular endothelial cell growth factor in a eukaryotic host is accompanied by correct splicing of the encoded RNA to remove intron sequences, thereby producing an mRNA template encoding the desired protein. Alternatively, a synthetic DNA sequence can be constructed from synthetic oligonucleotides that represents the coding sequence obtained after the intron sequences in the genomic clone have been removed. Expression vectors containing this synthetic sequence or the cDNA sequence encoding vascular endothelial cell growth factor can be used to express the protein in prokaryotic or eukaryotic hosts. Exemplary control sequence DNAs and hosts are described below under Standard Procedures.

Biologically active vascular endothelial cell growth factor is produced in accordance with the teachings of this invention, as a homodimeric molecule. In this context, the term "homodimeric" refers to a dimer in which the two subunits have the same primary amino acid structure. As previously indicated, one or both of the subunits may be modified by N-linked glycosylation or neither of the subunits modified. A fully active protein is produced by expression and/or recovery of the polypeptide sequence encoded by the DNA sequence of the invention under conditions which allow the formation of disulfide bonds in order to form a dimer.

The present invention also provides for the production of chimeric, dimeric proteins in which a portion of the primary amino acid structure corresponds to a portion of either the A-chain subunit or the B-chain subunit of platelet-derived growth factor and a portion of the primary amino acid structure corresponds to a portion of vascular endothelial cell growth factor. In particular, there is provided a chimeric growth factor comprising a first polypeptide chain and a second polypeptide chain, said chains being disulfide linked, wherein the first polypeptide chain comprises at least a portion of the amino acid sequence of either the A-chain subunit or the B-chain subunit of platelet-derived growth factor and the second chain comprises at least a portion of the amino acid sequence of vascular endothelial cell growth factor.

Platelet-derived growth factor is an approximately 30 kD dimer which has been isolated in both homodimeric and heterodimeric forms. Platelet-derived growth factor heterodimer contains two polypeptide chains, designated the A- and B-chains. The mature A- and B-chains exhibit approximately 40% amino acid sequence homology, with complete conservation of eight cysteine residues. Platelet-derived growth factor exists *in vivo* as either an A-A or a B-B homodimer or as an A-B heterodimer.

DNA sequences encoding the A-chain and B-chain subunits of platelet-derived growth factor have been isolated and sequenced (A-chain cDNA (human) is disclosed in Betsholtz, C., et al., Nature (1986) 320; A-chain genomic DNA (human) in Bonthron, D.T., et al., PNAS (1988) 85:1496; B-chain cDNA (human) in Collins, T., et al., Nature (1985) 316:748; and B-chain genomic DNA (human) in Chin, I.-M., et al., Cell (1984) 37:123). Fig. 4 illustrates the isolated cDNA sequences and deduced precursor amino acid sequences for the A- and B-chain subunits of human platelet-derived growth factor with a BamHI linker joined to the 5' end and an EcoRV linker joined to the 3' end of the cDNAs in each case. Each of these sequences can be inserted into a suitable expression vector under the control of appropriate regulatory elements and expressed in a suitable host, such as for example, *E. coli* or a eukaryotic host such as Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells or yeast.

Examples of the chimeric growth factor proteins contemplated by the present invention include: a dimeric protein consisting of the full length A-chain subunit of platelet-derived growth factor linked by disulfide bonds to a full length vascular endothelial cell growth factor polypeptide chain; and a dimeric protein consisting of the full length B-chain

subunit of platelet-derived growth factor linked by disulfide bonds to a full length vascular endothelial cell growth factor polypeptide chain. In other, less preferred embodiments, the dimeric protein can consist of two disulfide-linked polypeptide chains in which one or both of the chains consists of an N-terminal segment having an amino acid sequence corresponding to an N-terminal portion of either the A- or B-chain subunit of platelet-derived growth factor or vascular endothelial cell growth factor and a C-terminal segment corresponding to a C-terminal sequence selected from one of the other two chains. For example, one can prepare a dimer in which one polypeptide chain consists of the N-terminal one-half of the A-chain of platelet-derived growth factor linked through a peptide bond to the C-terminal one-half of vascular endothelial cell growth factor; and the other polypeptide chain consists of the entire amino acid sequence of vascular endothelial cell growth factor. Conversely, one of the polypeptide chains can be composed of an N-terminal portion of vascular endothelial cell growth factor linked to a C-terminal segment of the A- or B-chain subunit of platelet-derived growth factor and the other polypeptide chain can have the amino acid sequence of vascular endothelial cell growth factor. Numerous different hybrid combinations can be prepared, as will be readily apparent.

In order to prepare the chimeric growth factors of the invention, a DNA sequence encoding each desired chain is inserted into a suitable expression vector, e.g. a plasmid, under the control of regulatory sequences capable of directing its expression in a host cell. Host cells are then transformed with the expression vectors. If desired, a single host may be cotransformed with expression vectors for each of the two chains. Alternatively, separate host cells can be transformed with the vectors encoding the two polypeptide chains. The polypeptide chains are then expressed and recovered in a conventional manner. If the polypeptide chains are expressed with secretion signal sequences such that they are secreted from host cells, they may naturally form the correct dimer structure during synthesis and secretion. The dimers may then be purified using the techniques described in Gospodarowicz et al., *PNAS* (1989) 86(19):7311-7316 and Ferrara and Henzel, *BBRC* (1989) 161(2):851-858. If the correct dimer structure is not obtained by this route, or if the two chains of the chimera are synthesized in different hosts, then an example of one means of refolding and dimerizing the chains would be to treat the partially-purified or purified chains with guanidine-HCl, Na₂SO₃ and Na₂S₄O₆, as described in more detail in the examples below. The resulting S-sulfonated, denatured proteins are then refolded and dimerized together in the presence of 5 mM glutathione, 0.5 mM glutathione disulfide and urea before final purification.

Compositions and Uses

Vascular endothelial cell growth factor (bVEGF₁₂₀ or hVEGF₁₂₁) provided by the invention is useful as a wound healing agent, particularly in applications where it is desired to re-endothelialize vascular tissue, or where the growth of a new capillary bed (angiogenesis) is important.

Vascular endothelial cell growth factor can, therefore, be used in the treatment of full-thickness wounds such as dermal ulcers, including the categories of pressure sores, venous ulcers and diabetic ulcers. In addition, vascular endothelial cell growth factor can be used in the treatment of full-thickness burns and injuries where angiogenesis is required to prepare the burn or injured site for a skin graft or flap. In this case, the vascular endothelial cell growth factor is either applied directly to the site or it is used to soak the skin or flap that is being transplanted prior to grafting. In a similar fashion, vascular endothelial cell growth factor can be used in plastic surgery when reconstruction is required following a burn, other trauma or for cosmetic purposes.

Angiogenesis is also important in keeping wounds clean and non-infected. Vascular endothelial cell growth factor can, therefore, be used in association with general surgery and following the repair of cuts and lacerations. It is particularly useful in the treatment of abdominal wounds with a high risk of infection. Neovascularization is also key to fracture repair since blood vessels develop at the site of bone injury. Administration of vascular endothelial cell growth factor to the site of a fracture is, therefore, another utility.

In cases where vascular endothelial cell growth factor is being used for topical wound healing, as described above, it may be administered by any of the routes described below for the re-endothelialization of vascular tissue, or more preferably by topical means. In these cases, it will be administered as either a solution, spray, gel, cream, ointment or as a dry powder directly to the site of injury. Slow release devices directing vascular endothelial cell growth factor to the injured site will also be used. In topical applications, vascular endothelial cell growth factor will be applied at a concentration ranging from 50 to 1,000 µg/ml either in a single application, or in dosing regimens that are daily or every few days for a period of one to several weeks. Generally, the amount of topical formulation administered is that which is sufficient to apply from about 0.1 to 100 µg/cm² of vascular endothelial cell growth factor, based on the surface area of the wound.

Vascular endothelial cell growth factor can be used as a post-operative wound healing agent in balloon angioplasty, a procedure in which vascular endothelial cells are removed or damaged, together with compression of atherosclerotic plaques. Vascular endothelial cell growth factor can be applied to inner vascular surfaces by systemic or local intravenous application either as intravenous bolus injection or infusions. If desired, the vascular endothelial cell growth factor can be administered over time using a micrometering pump. Suitable compositions for intravenous administration comprise vascular endothelial cell growth factor in an amount effective to promote endothelial cell growth and a

parenteral carrier material. The vascular endothelial cell growth factor can be present in the composition over a wide range of concentration, for example, from about 50 µg/ml to about 1,000 µg/ml using injections of 3 to 10 ml per patient, administered once or in dosing regimens that allow for multiple applications. Any of the known parenteral carrier vehicles can be used, such as normal saline or 5-10% dextrose.

Vascular endothelial cell growth factor can also be used to promote endothelialization in vascular graft surgery. In the case of vascular grafts using either transplanted vessels or synthetic material, for example, vascular endothelial cell growth factor can be applied to the surfaces of the graft and/or at the junctions of the graft and the existing vasculature in order to promote the growth of vascular endothelial cells. For such applications, the vascular endothelial cell growth factor can be applied intravenously as described above for balloon angioplasty or it can be applied directly to the surfaces of the graft and/or the existing vasculature either before or during surgery. In such cases, it may be desired to apply the vascular endothelial cell growth factor in a thickened carrier material so that it will adhere to the affected surface. Suitable carrier materials include, for example, 1-5% carbopol. The vascular endothelial cell growth factor can be present in the carrier over a wide range of concentrations, for example, from about 50 µg/mg to about 1,000 µg/mg. Alternatively, the vascular endothelial cell growth factor can be delivered to the site by a micrometering pump as a parenteral solution.

Vascular endothelial cell growth factor can also be employed to repair vascular damage following myocardial infarction and to circumvent the need for coronary bypass surgery by stimulating the growth of a collateral circulation. The vascular endothelial cell growth factor is administered intravenously for this purpose, either in individual injections or by micrometering pump over a period of time as described above or by direct infusion or injection to the site of damaged cardiac muscle.

Vascular endothelial cell growth factor can also be used as a growth factor for the *in vitro* culturing of endothelial cells. For such uses, vascular endothelial cell growth factor can be added to the cell culture medium at a concentration from about 10 pg/ml to about 10 ng/ml.

The hybrid growth factor molecules of the invention will be expected to exhibit mitogenic profiles falling between those of platelet-derived growth factor and vascular endothelial cell growth factor or, in some cases, may be employed as inhibitors of angiogenesis. The most pronounced distinction between the activities of the two factors is that platelet-derived growth factor exhibits substantial mitogenic activity on smooth muscle cells and fibroblasts, but not on endothelial cells, whereas vascular endothelial cell growth factor exhibits the opposite specificity. The mitogenic activity of PDGF A- and/or B-chain on smooth muscle cells and fibroblasts tends to impart tensile strength to a healing wound. Therefore, the growth factor which is a hybrid between platelet-derived growth factor and vascular endothelial cell growth factor can be applied to a wound in order to induce neovascularization and impart tensile strength to the wound area during and after healing. The hybrid growth factors are applied in essentially the same manner and at the same dosages as described above for vascular endothelial cell growth factor.

Elucidation of the DNA sequences encoding the various forms of vascular endothelial cell growth factor and their deduced amino acid sequences also provides the means for producing inhibitors of vascular endothelial cell growth factor activity. Inhibition of the angiogenic activity of vascular endothelial cell growth factor is useful, for example, in retarding or preventing the growth of tumors, since neovascularization is required to provide the necessary blood supply to a growing tumor. One may administer antibodies to vascular endothelial cell growth factor or one may administer fragments of vascular endothelial cell growth factor which are capable of binding vascular endothelial cell growth factor receptor but which do not exhibit the angiogenic activity of full-length vascular endothelial cell growth factor.

Antibodies to the expressed and isolated vascular endothelial cell growth factor proteins can be produced by known techniques. The therapeutic antibodies may be polyclonal or monoclonal. Antibodies are prepared using standard immunization protocols in rabbits, mice or other suitable animal and recovering the antisera. In addition, antibody-secreting cells from the immunized animals can be immortalized using fusion techniques to produce hybridomas which can be screened for antibodies immunoreactive with the vascular endothelial cell growth factor (see e.g. "Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual", E. Harlow and D. Lane, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y.). The determination of an appropriate treatment regimen (i.e., dosage, frequency of administration, systemic vs. local, etc.) is within the skill of the art. For administration, the antibodies will be formulated in a unit dosage injectable form (solution, suspension, emulsion, etc.) in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable parenteral vehicle. Such vehicles are usually nontoxic and nontherapeutic. Examples of such vehicles are water, saline, Ringer's solution, dextrose solution, and Hank's solution. Nonaqueous vehicles such as fixed oils and ethyl oleate may also be used. A preferred vehicle is 5% (w/w) human albumin in saline. The vehicle may contain minor amounts of additives, such as substances that enhance isotonicity and chemical stability, e.g., buffers and preservatives. The antibody is typically formulated in such vehicles at a concentration of about 20 µg/ml to 20 mg/ml.

There is also provided herein a method to inhibit angiogenesis, e.g. to retard or prevent the growth of a tumor, which involves administration of a heterodimeric protein having two different subunits, one of which is hVEGF₁₂₁ and the other of which is the mature amino acid sequence of hVEGF₁₆₅ or hVPF₁₈₉. The term hVPF₁₈₉ refers to a 189-amino acid protein which has now been found to arise from differential message splicing of the transcribed genomic DNA

sequence shown in Fig. 8. The homodimeric form of hVPF₁₈₉ is referred to as vascular permeability factor. The amino acid sequence of hVPF is homologous with both hVEGF₁₂₁ and hVEGF₁₆₅ for the N-terminal 114 amino acids of the mature protein and the C-terminal 6 amino acids. However, hVPF₁₈₉ contains a sequence of 68 amino acids, beginning at position 115, which are not present in hVEGF₁₂₁. The complete cDNA coding sequence and deduced amino acid sequence of hVPF₁₈₉ are disclosed in Keck, P. et al., *Science* (1989) 246:1309-1312. While not wishing to be bound by any particular theory or mechanism of action, it is believed that dimeric PDGF-like growth factors exert their biological activity by a mechanism wherein each of the subunits of the dimer binds a separate receptor subunit on the cell surface, with binding to the two adjacent receptor subunits being necessary to trigger receptor activity. By administering a heterodimer composed of different subunits of the vascular endothelial cell growth factor family, each of the subunits may bind a specific receptor subtype, thereby blocking the bound receptor from interacting effectively with endogenous, homodimeric vascular endothelial cell growth factor. However, since the other subunit of the administered homodimer is a different vascular endothelial cell growth factor subtype, the dimer will be incapable of binding a second receptor subunit of the same subtype to trigger the biological activity of the receptor.

The heterodimeric protein which is employed in this manner to inhibit angiogenesis can be produced by expressing the desired amino acid sequences for hVEGF₁₂₁, hVEGF₁₆₅ or hVPF₁₈₉ in separate hosts or by co-expression in the same host. Dimerization is then carried out by procedures described elsewhere herein. The desired heterodimer can be separated from homodimeric forms by any convenient method for size separation of proteins. The heterodimer is administered to a host in need of anti-angiogenic treatment, e.g. an individual suffering from a tumor, in a manner similar to that in which vascular endothelial cell growth factor is administered as an angiogenic agent. The precise dosing regimen and dosage is within the skill of those in the art to determine.

An alternative means of inhibiting angiogenesis is the administration of a heterodimer in which one subunit is selected from hVEGF₁₂₁, hVEGF₁₆₅ and hVPF₁₈₉; and the other subunit is a biologically inactive fragment or an analog of hVEGF₁₂₁, hVEGF₁₆₅ or hVPF₁₈₉ in which one or more amino acids are substituted by different amino acids which render the subunits inactive.

Since vascular endothelial cell growth factor is produced at elevated levels in tumors, one can employ anti-vascular endothelial cell growth factor antibodies in a conventional immunoassay to detect the presence of a tumor in an individual. Antibodies to vascular endothelial cell growth factor, preferably to human vascular endothelial cell growth factor, hVEGF₁₂₁, can be produced by known techniques. The antibodies can be monoclonal or polyclonal. Vascular endothelial cell growth factor levels are determined in a fluid sample, preferably a serum sample, of an individual suspected of having a tumor, using any of the conventional immunoassay techniques which employ antibodies to the substance being measured. Preferred assays are the sandwich type immunoassays such as a sandwich type enzyme immunoassay or radioimmunoassay. Circulating levels of vascular endothelial cell growth factor can reliably be measured by these techniques to the 1-1000 pg/ml level. The measured level of vascular endothelial cell growth factor is compared with control levels taken from normal individuals, i.e. individuals who do not have tumors. Elevated levels of circulating vascular endothelial cell growth factor are considered diagnostic for tumors.

Standard Procedures

Most of the procedures which are used to transform cells, construct vectors, extract messenger RNA, prepare cDNA libraries, and the like are widely practiced in the art and most practitioners are familiar with the standard resource materials which describe specific conditions and procedures. However, for convenience, the following paragraphs may serve as a guideline.

Hosts and Control Sequences

Both prokaryotic and eukaryotic systems may be used to express the vascular endothelial cell growth factor encoding sequences: prokaryotic hosts are, of course, the most convenient for cloning procedures. Prokaryotes most frequently are represented by various strains of *E. coli*; however, other microbial strains may also be used. Plasmid vectors which contain replication sites, selectable markers and control sequences derived from a species compatible with the microbial host are used; for example, *E. coli* is typically transformed using derivatives of pBR322, a plasmid constructed from parts of three naturally-occurring plasmids, two obtained from species of *Salmonella*, and one isolated from *E. coli* by Bolivar, et al., *Gene* (1977) 2:95. pBR322 contains genes for ampicillin and tetracycline resistance, and thus provides multiple selectable markers which can be either retained or destroyed in constructing the desired vector. Commonly used prokaryotic control sequences (also referred to herein as "regulatory elements") which are defined herein to include promoters for transcription initiation, optionally with an operator, along with ribosome binding site sequences, include such commonly used promoters as the beta-lactamase (penicillinase) and lactose (lac) promoter systems (Chang, et al., *Nature* (1977) 198:1056) and the tryptophan (trp) promoter system (Goeddel, et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.* (1980) 8:4057 and the lambda derived P_L promoter and N-gene ribosome binding site (Shimatake, et al.,

Nature (1981) 292:128).

In addition to bacteria, eucaryotic microbes, such as yeast may also be used as hosts. Laboratory strains of Saccharomyces cerevisiae, Baker's yeast, are most used although a number of other stains or species are commonly available. Vectors employing, for example, the 2 μ origin of replication of Broach, J.R., Meth. Enz. (1983) 101:307, or other yeast compatible origins of replication (see, for example, Stinchcomb, et al., Nature (1979) 282:39, Tschumper, G., et al., Gene (1980) 10:157 and Clarke, L. et al., Meth. Enz. (1983) 101:300) may be used. Control sequences for yeast vectors include promoters for the synthesis of glycolytic enzymes (Hess, et al., J. Adv. Enzyme Reg. (1968) 7:149; Holland, et al., Biochemistry (1978) 17:4900). Additional promoters known in the art include the promoter for 3-phosphoglycerate kinase (Hitzeman, et al., J. Biol. Chem. (1980) 255:2073). Other promoters, which have the additional advantage of transcription controlled by growth conditions and/or genetic background are the promoter regions for alcohol dehydrogenase 2, isocytochrome C, acid phosphatase, degradative enzymes associated with nitrogen metabolism, the alpha factor system and enzymes responsible for maltose and galactose utilization. It is also believed terminator sequences are desirable at the 3' end of the coding sequences. Such terminators are found in the 3' untranslated region following the coding sequences in yeast-derived genes.

It is also, of course, possible to express genes encoding polypeptides in eukaryotic host cell cultures derived from multicellular organisms. See, for example, Axel, et al. 4,399,216. These systems have the additional advantage of the ability to splice out introns and thus can be used directly to express genomic fragments. These systems can also provide post-translational modification mimicing those occurring in some natural proteins. Useful host cell lines include VERO and HeLa cells, and Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells. Expression vectors for such cells ordinarily include promoters and control sequences compatible with mammalian cells such as, for example, the commonly used early and late promoters from Simian Virus 40 (SV40) (Fiers, et al., Nature (1978) 273:113), or other viral promoters such as those derived from polyoma, Adenovirus 2, bovine papilloma virus, or avian sarcoma viruses. The controllable promoter, hMT-II_A (Karín, M., et al. Nature (1982) 299:797-802) may also be used. General aspects of mammalian cell host system transformations have been described by Axel (supra). It is apparent that "enhancer" regions are also important in optimizing expression; these are, generally, sequences found upstream or downstream of the promoter region in non-coding DNA regions. Origins of replication may be obtained, if needed, from viral sources. However, integration into the chromosome is a common mechanism for DNA replication in eucaryotes.

Transformations

Depending on the host cell used, transformation is done using standard techniques appropriate to such cells. The calcium treatment employing calcium chloride, as described by Cohen, S.N. PNAS (1972) 69:2110, or the RbCl₂ method described in Maniatis, et al., Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual (1982) Cold Spring Harbor Press, p. 254 and Hanahan, D., J. Mol. Biol. (1983) 166:557-580 may be used for procaryotes or other cells which contain substantial cell wall barriers. For mammalian cells without such cell walls, the calcium phosphate precipitation method of Graham and van der Eb, Virology (1978) 52:546, optionally as modified by Wigler, M., et al., Cell (1979) 16:777-785 may be used. Transformations into yeast may be carried out according to the method of Beggs, J.D., Nature (1978) 275:104-109 or of Hinnen, A., et al., PNAS (1978) 75:1929.

Vector Construction

Construction of suitable vectors containing the desired coding and regulatory elements for expression of the DNA sequences provided herein employs standard ligation and restriction techniques which are well understood in the art. Isolated plasmids, DNA sequences, or synthesized oligonucleotides are cleaved, tailored, and religated in the form desired.

The DNA sequences which form the vectors are available from a number of sources. Backbone vectors and control systems are generally found on available "host" vectors which are used for the bulk of the sequences in the constructions. Typical sequences have been set forth in Hosts and Control Sequences above. For the pertinent coding sequence, initial construction may be, and usually is, a matter of retrieving the appropriate sequences from cDNA or genomic DNA libraries. However, once the sequence is disclosed it is possible to synthesize the entire gene sequence in vitro starting from the individual nucleotide derivatives. The entire gene sequence for genes of sizeable length, e. g., 500-1000 bp may be prepared by synthesizing individual overlapping complementary oligonucleotides and filling in single stranded nonoverlapping portions using DNA polymerase in the presence of the deoxyribonucleotide triphosphates. This approach has been used successfully in the construction of several genes of known sequence. See for example, Edge, M.D., Nature (1981) 292:756; Nambair, K.P., et al., Science (1984) 223:1299; Jay, Ernest, J. Biol. Chem. (1984) 259:6311.

Synthetic oligonucleotides are prepared by either the phosphotriester method as described by Edge, et al., Nature (supra) and Duckworth, et al., Nucleic Acids Res. (1981) 9:1691 or the phosphoramidite method as described by

Beaucage, S.L., and Caruthers, M.H. Tet. Letts. (1981) 22:1859 and Matteucci, M.D., and Caruthers, M.H., J. Am. Chem. Soc. (1981) 103:3185 and can be prepared using commercially available automated oligonucleotide synthesizers. Kinasing of single strands prior to annealing or for labeling is achieved using an excess, e.g., approximately 10 units of polynucleotide kinase to 1 nmole substrate in the presence of 50 mM Tris, pH 7.6, 10 mM MgCl₂, 5 mM dithiothreitol, 1-2 mM ATP, 1.7 pmoles γ -³²P-ATP (2.9 mCi/mmmole), 0.1 mM spermidine, 0.1 mM EDTA.

Once the components of the desired vectors are thus available, they can be excised and ligated using standard restriction and ligation procedures.

Site specific DNA cleavage is performed by treating with the suitable restriction enzyme (or enzymes) under conditions which are generally understood in the art, and the particulars of which are specified by the manufacturer of these commercially available restriction enzymes. See, e.g., New England Biolabs, Product Catalog. In general, about 1 μ g of plasmid or DNA sequence is cleaved by one unit of enzyme in about 20 μ l of buffer solution: in the examples herein, typically, an excess of restriction enzyme is used to insure complete digestion of the DNA substrate. Incubation times of about one hour to two hours at about 37°C are workable, although variations can be tolerated. After each incubation, protein is removed by extraction with phenol/chloroform, and may be followed by ether extraction, and the nucleic acid recovered from aqueous fractions by precipitation with ethanol. If desired, size separation of the cleaved fragments may be performed by polyacrylamide gel or agarose gel electrophoresis using standard techniques. A general description of size separations is found in Methods in Enzymology (1980) 65:499-560.

Restriction cleaved fragments may be blunt ended by treating with the large fragment of E. coli DNA polymerase I (Klenow) in the presence of the four deoxynucleotide triphosphates (dNTPs) using incubation times of about 15 to 25 minutes at 20 to 25°C in 50 mM Tris pH 7.6, 50 mM NaCl, 6 mM MgCl₂, 6 mM DTT and 0.1-1.0 mM dNTPs. The Klenow fragment fills in at 5' single-stranded overhangs but chews back protruding 3' single strands, even though the four dNTPs are present. If desired, selective repair can be performed by supplying only one of the, or selected, dNTPs within the limitations dictated by the nature of the overhang. After treatment with Klenow, the mixture is extracted with phenol/chloroform and ethanol precipitated. Treatment under appropriate conditions with S1 nuclease or BAL-31 results in hydrolysis of any single-stranded portion.

Ligations are performed in 15-50 μ l volumes under the following standard conditions and temperatures: for example, 60 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 16 mM MgCl₂, 10 mM DTT, 33 μ g/ml BSA, and either 40 μ M ATP, 0.01-0.02 (Weiss) units T4 DNA ligase at 0°C (for "sticky end" ligation) or 1 mM ATP, 0.3-0.6 (Weiss) units T4 DNA ligase at 14°C (for "blunt end" ligation). Intermolecular "sticky end" ligations are usually performed at 33-100 μ g/ml total DNA concentrations (5-100 nM total end concentration). Intermolecular blunt end ligations are performed at 1 μ M total ends concentration.

In vector construction employing "vector fragments", the vector fragment is commonly treated with bacterial alkaline phosphatase (BAP) or calf intestinal alkaline phosphatase (CIP) in order to remove the 5' phosphate and prevent self-ligation of the vector.

Digestions are conducted at pH 8 in approximately 10 mM Tris-HCl, 1 mM EDTA using about 1 unit of BAP per μ g of vector at 60°C for about one hour, or in 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 9.0), 1 mM MgCl₂, 0.1 mM ZnCl₂, 1 mM Spermidine, 1 unit CIP at 37°C for 60 minutes (for protruding 5' ends) or 15 minutes at 37°C and then 15 minutes at 56°C (for blunt ends or recessed 5' ends). In order to recover the nucleic acid fragments, the preparation is extracted with phenol/chloroform and ethanol precipitated. Alternatively, religation can be prevented in vectors which have been double digested by additional restriction enzyme digestion and separation of the unwanted fragments.

For portions of vectors derived from cDNA or genomic DNA which require sequence modifications, site specific primer directed mutagenesis may be used (Zoller, M.J., and Smith, M. Nucleic Acids Res. (1982) 10:6487-6500 and Adelman, J.P., et al., DNA (1983) 2:183-193). This is conducted using a primer synthetic oligonucleotide, complementary to a single stranded phage DNA to be mutagenized, except for limited mismatching which represents the desired mutation. Briefly, the synthetic oligonucleotide is used as a primer to direct synthesis of a strand complementary to the phage, and the resulting partially or fully double-stranded DNA is transformed into a phage-supporting host bacterium. Cultures of the transformed bacteria are plated in top agar, permitting plaque formation from single cells which harbor the phage.

Theoretically, 50% of the new plaques will contain the phage having, as a single strand, the mutated form; 50% will have the original sequence. Plaque lifts of the resulting plaques onto nitrocellulose are washed after hybridization with kinased synthetic primer at a wash temperature which permits binding of an exact match, but at which the mismatches with the original strand are sufficient to prevent binding. Plaques which hybridize with the probe are then picked, cultured, and the DNA recovered.

Verification of Construction

In the constructions set forth below, correct ligations for plasmid construction are confirmed by first transforming E. coli strain MC1061 obtained from Dr. M. Casadaban (Casadaban, M., et al., J. Mol. Biol. (1980) 138:179-207) or other suitable host with the ligation mixture. Successful transformants are selected by ampicillin, tetracycline or other

antibiotic resistance or using other markers depending on the mode of plasmid construction, as is understood in the art. Plasmids from the transformants are then prepared according to the method of Clewell, D.B., et al., *PNAS* (1969) 62:1159, optionally following chloramphenicol amplification (Clewell, D.B. *J. Bacterial.* (1972) 110:667). Several mini DNA preps are commonly used, e.g., Holmes, D.S. et al., *Anal. Biochem.* (1981) 114:193-197 and Birnboim, H.C., et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.* (1979) 7:1513-1523. The isolated DNA is analyzed by restriction and/or sequenced by the dideoxy nucleotide method of Sanger, F. et al., *PNAS* (1977) 74:5463 as further described by Messing, et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.* (1981) 9:309, or by the method of Maxam, et al., *Methods in Enzymology* (1980) 65:499.

Hosts Exemplified

Host strains used in cloning and prokaryotic expression herein are as follows:

For cloning and sequencing, and for expression of constructions under the control of most bacterial promoters, *E. coli* strains such as B, MC1061, DH1, RR1, C600hfr, KB03, HB101, JA221, JM101, and JM103 were used.

Illustrative Procedures

The following examples are intended to illustrate the invention as a means of better understanding it. The examples are not, however, intended to limit the scope of the invention in any way. The DNA encoding vascular endothelial cell growth factor is obtained initially by first obtaining a pivotal probe by means of amplification of the desired sequence in a preparation of folliculo stellate poly(A)⁺ RNA. However, it would not be necessary to repeat the procedure, since the sequence of the pivotal probe is now known and could thus be constructed chemically *in vitro*. In addition, a plasmid containing the sequence illustrated in Fig. 3a as been deposited at the American Type Culture Collection, Rockville, MD.

In the following examples the buffers described below have the indicated compositions:

Buffer	Composition
40% Formamide	50 mM HEPES pH 7.0 40% formamide 5 x Denhardt's (50x = 1% Ficoll; 1% polyvinylpyrrolidone; 1% bovine serum albumin) 5 x SSC (20 x SSC = 3 M NaCl; 0.3 M sodium citrate) 50 µg/ml sheared DNA
50% Formamide	Same as above, but substitute 50% formamide for 40% formamide
Short Oligo Prehybridization	Same as above, but with no formamide added
Long Oligo Prehybridization	6 x SSC 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH 6.8) 5 x Denhardt's 100 µg/ml sheared DNA 20% formamide

Example 1

Amplification of Probe from Folliculo Stellate Cell mRNA

Referring to Fig. 2, 5 µg of poly(A)⁺ RNA from bovine folliculo stellate cells (cells are isolated as described in Ferrara, N. et al., (1986) In: *Methods in Enzymology*, Conn, P.M. ed., Vol. 124, pp 245-253, Academic Press, N.Y.; Ferrara, N. et al., (1987) *PNAS*, 84:5773-5777) was ethanol precipitated with 1 µg of an anti-sense priming oligonucleotide based on the known amino acid sequence of amino acids no. 35 to 39 of bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor. The oligonucleotide, designated #4296, was a 24-mer having a 16-fold degeneracy. The degeneracy was confined to a region of 14 bases corresponding to the anti-sense strand of the coding region for amino acids 35 to 39. At the 5' end of the 14 bases there was added a 10-base linker containing an EcoRI restriction site. The sequence of the oligonucleotide primer was as follows:

5' -GCC GAA TTC GGG ^AGTA ^CTTC ^CTG ^GAA-3'

The mRNA and oligonucleotide were dissolved in 55 µl of 36 mM KCl, 9 mM MgCl₂, 45 mM Tris pH 7.5, 12 units RNasin and 0.5 mM each of the four dNTPs. The sample was heated to 70°C for 2 minutes and then was brought to room temperature. For synthesis of a DNA anti-sense strand complementary to a portion of the mRNA adjacent to the site of hybridization of the primer, 60 units of avian myeloblastosis virus reverse transcriptase was added, and the reaction was allowed to stay at room temperature for 2 minutes and then brought to 42°C for 45 minutes. The sample was then extracted with phenol and chloroform, precipitated with ethanol and dried.

A second DNA strand was then synthesized using all of the first synthesized strand as template. For second strand synthesis, the dried pellet was dissolved in 50 µl of 50 mM NaCl, 7 mM MgCl₂, 7 mM Tris pH 7.5 and 1 mM each of the four dNTPs. There was also added 1 µg sense strand oligonucleotide primer, which was based on the known amino acid sequence of bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor at amino acid positions no. 15 to 19. The oligonucleotide, designated #4295, was a 24-mer with an 8-fold degeneracy. The degeneracy was confined to the 14-base region corresponding to the sense strand of the coding region for amino acids 15 to 19. At the 5' end of these 14 bases there was added a 10-base linker containing a HindIII restriction site. The sequence of the oligonucleotide primer was as follows:

5' -GCC AAG CTT GAA ^AGTT ^CTAT GGA ^CTGT-3'

The sample was heated to 100°C for 2 minutes and then brought to 28°C. Second strand synthesis was carried out at 28°C for 10 minutes with the addition of 10 units of DNA polymerase I, Klenow fragment. Afterwards, the polymerase enzyme was inactivated by heating at 100°C for 2 minutes.

The DNA sequence extending between the two primer hybridization sites was amplified by a repetitive series of enzymatically catalyzed polymerization reactions using an automated thermal cycler (Perkin Elmer Cetus DNA Thermal Cycler). For the chain reaction 5 µl of the above reaction was brought to 100 µl in 1 x reaction mix by the addition of 10 µl 10x Tag buffer mix (supplied in a polymerase chain reaction kit from Cetus Corp.), 52 µl dH₂O, and 16 µl containing all 4 dNTPs at 1.25 mM each. In addition, 10% DMSO (final concentration) and 1 µg of each of the sense and anti-sense oligonucleotides described above were added, along with 2 µl of Tag polymerase supplied in the Cetus kit. The reaction mix was covered with 200 µl of mineral oil and placed in the thermal cycler. The cycler was programmed to repeat the following cycle:

1. Denature at 94°C, 1 minute
2. Anneal at 55°C, 2 minutes
3. DNA synthesis at 72°C, 3.5 minutes

The amplification reaction was carried out for 30 cycles.

A portion of the DNA from the amplification reaction (20 µl) was loaded onto a 6% polyacrylamide gel and subjected to electrophoresis using HaeIII-digested pUC8 DNA to provide size markers. The gel was stained with ethidium bromide. The stained gel is shown in Fig. 5. A major band (marked with an arrow in Fig. 5) running between 80 and 100 base pairs corresponded to the appropriate length DNA (94 base pairs) to encode the two oligonucleotide primers as well as the amino acid coding region segment bracketed by the two primers. This band was cut from the gel and the DNA was electroeluted from the gel slice at 30 volts in 0.5 x Tris borate EDTA buffer (0.045 M Tris base, 0.045 M boric acid, 0.001 M EDTA). The DNA obtained was precipitated with ethanol.

Example 2

Subcloning and Sequencing of Amplified Probe

The DNA that was electroeluted from the gel as described in Example 1 was subcloned in bacteriophage M13mp18 and M13mp19. One-half of the DNA obtained from the gel was dissolved in 20 µl of water and digested with HindIII in standard HindIII digestion buffer for 90 minutes at 37°C. The concentration of Tris-HCl (pH 7.5) in the reaction was raised to 85 mM, EcoRI was added and the reaction was incubated a further 90 minutes at 37°C. In separate reactions, approximately one-tenth of the digested preparation per reaction was then ligated, in the presence of T4 DNA ligase, with M13mp18 phage and M13mp19 phage double-stranded DNA (Yanisch-Perron, et al., *Gene* (1985)33:103) that had been cut with HindIII and EcoRI. Each ligation mix was then transfected into *E. coli* JM103 using standard techniques and plated onto L plates containing 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl-β-D-galactopyranoside (X-gal) and isopropyl-

β -D-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG). In the case of the M13mp19 reaction, after plaques formed on the plates, portions of the plaques were lifted onto nitrocellulose filter paper, lysed by treatment with NaOH according to standard techniques, and baked for 2 hours at 80°C in a vacuum oven. In order to screen for the presence of the desired insert sequence, the plaque lift was probed with a radiolabelled sample of the oligonucleotide primer #4296. Probe #4296 hybridized to numerous plaques on the plaque lift and four were chosen for further analysis. In the case of the M13mp18 reaction, four plaques for further analysis were picked based on the fact that they were white, indicating that an insert fragment had been ligated between the EcoRI and HindIII sites of the phage vector.

The four plaques from each of the M13mp18 and M13mp19 infected plates that were picked were used to infect JM103 and replicative form (RF) DNA was prepared from the infected cultures using standard techniques. The RF DNA from each infection was then cut with HaeIII and loaded onto a polyacrylamide gel. Electrophoresis was conducted using HaeIII-cut pUC8 and HaeIII-cut M13mp18 RF as size markers. Upon visualization with ethidium bromide, the DNA in all eight sample lanes was shown to contain an insert of the correct size to encode the amino acid sequence lying in the region between and including the amino acids used to design the primers used in the polymerase chain reaction.

One of the M13mp19 plaques and the four M13mp18 plaques shown to have the correct insert sequence length were picked for further analysis. Single stranded DNA was then prepared for sequencing according to standard procedures (see Messing, J., *Methods in Enzymology* (1983) 101:20-78). The sequences of the inserts in the five isolated clones are given in Fig. 1. One region of the sequencing gel (nucleotides 32-35 in Fig. 1) was not unambiguously readable for the four M13mp18 clones. Excluding the unreadable region of the M13mp18 sequences, four of the five sequenced clones encoded the same amino acid sequence corresponding to that portion of the bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor encoded by the mRNA region extending between and including the hybridization sites of the two primer sequences used in the polymerase chain reaction. The fifth sequenced clone contained a 5 single encoded amino acid difference, encoding His (CAC), rather than Pro (CCC), at the position corresponding to amino acid no. 27 of bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor. Fig. 1 gives the DNA sequences of the inserts in the five clones, as well as a consensus DNA sequence and the deduced amino acid sequence for the insert in the M13mp19 clone. It can be seen that most of the non-homologous nucleotides between the five isolated sequences occurred at positions located in the primer sequences used in the polymerase chain reaction, indicating that in some instances degenerate oligonucleotides in the primers having single-nucleotide mismatches may have hybridized with the protein-encoding sequence in the vascular endothelial cell mRNA and subsequently been amplified. Other sequence differences presumably were the result of either polymerase errors or polymorphisms in the vascular endothelial cell growth factor mRNA. While these sequences may not correspond precisely to the native DNA sequence, four of the five nonetheless encode the correct amino acid sequence (excluding the unreadable region in the M13mp18 clones) for vascular endothelial cell growth factor. Moreover, they can be used as probes to isolate full-length DNA sequences for bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor or for isolating DNAs encoding the corresponding protein in non-bovine species. The picked phage in which the amplified DNA had been ligated into M13mp19 was renamed pET-19A; the inserted fragment in this phage was used as the probe to screen a folliculo stellate cell cDNA library, as described in Example 3 below.

Example 3

Retrieval of cDNA Encoding Bovine Vascular Endothelial Cell Growth Factor (120-Amino Acid Form)

A bovine folliculo stellate cell cDNA library was prepared in λ gt10 bacteriophage according to a modification of the procedure of Huynh, et al., in DNA Cloning, D.M. Glover ed., Vol. I, p. 49, IRL Press, Washington, D.C. (1985). The poly(A)⁺ RNA used to make the cDNA for the library was obtained from folliculo stellate cells isolated and expanded from bovine pituitary by Dr. Denis Gospodarowicz according to published procedures (Ferrara, et al., *PNAS* (1987) 84: 5773-5777). The cDNA library (approximately 1.5×10^6 phage) in λ gt10 was plated on C600hfr cells (30 plates, 5×10^4 phage/plate). Two plaque lifts from each plate were made onto nitrocellulose filter papers. The filters were immersed in a denaturing solution (0.2 M NaOH, 1.5 M NaCl) for 3 minutes, followed by a neutralization solution (2 x SSC, 0.4 M Tris pH 7.5) for 3 minutes and a wash solution (2 x SSC) for 3 minutes. The filters were then air-dried and baked at 80°C for 2 hours in a vacuum oven. One set of the filters was prehybridized in 200 ml of 40% Formamide Buffer at 42°C.

To prepare a probe for screening the filters a single-stranded preparation was made of the M13mp19-derived phage pET-19A, isolated as described in Example 2 above, using standard methods (Messing, J., *Methods Enzymol.* (1983) 101:20-78). This preparation was annealed with the "universal" primer (Messing, J., *Methods Enzymol.* (1983) 101:20-78), and a complementary strand for pET-19A was synthesized by extending the primer using Klenow-fragment polymerase and α^{32} P-dNTPs.

One set of plaque lifts was screened with this radiolabelled probe. The probe was heated to 100°C for 2 minutes to melt the double-stranded DNA and then set on ice. The probe (1 ml; 5×10^8 cpm) was then added to the 200 ml of

40% Formamide Buffer used for prehybridization and mixed thoroughly. The prehybridized filters were added and incubated overnight at 42°C in a rocking water bath. The filters were then washed in 1 x SSC (20 x SSC equals 3 M NaCl, 0.3 M Na citrate) containing 0.1% SDS for several hours at 50°C. After washing, the filters were exposed to X-ray film at -70 to -80°C overnight.

Approximately 32 putative positive clones were identified in the initial screen with the primer-extended probe derived from pET-19A. Ten clones, identified 1c-10c were selected for further screening.

The second set of plaque lifts was screened with a radiolabelled synthetic oligonucleotide probe designed on the basis of the sequence obtained for the amplified DNA insert in pET-19A, shown in Fig. 1. The oligonucleotide, identified as probe #4340, was a 39-mer oligonucleotide corresponding to the anti-sense strand and having the nucleotide sequence:

5'-CAC CAG GGT CTC GAT GGG ACG GCA GAA GCT GCG CTG GTA-3'

The filters were pre-hybridized in 100 ml of Long Oligo Prehybridization Buffer at 43°C for approximately 6 hours. The filters in the pre-hybridization buffer were then heated for 10 minutes in a 65°C water bath. The probe (5 x 10⁸ cpm), radiolabelled using γ -³²P-ATP and polynucleotide kinase, was added to the 65°C buffer and the temperature was slowly cooled to room temperature by shutting off the heat to the water bath. The following day, the filters were removed from the hybridization buffer and washed for 2 hours [6-in 3 x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 45°C with a change of wash buffer at 1 hr. The filters were dried and exposed to X-ray film overnight at -70 to -80°C.

Of the clones that hybridized with probe #4340, only one clone appeared to correspond to one of the 32 clones from the first set of filters that had hybridized with pET-19A. This clone was not one of the original 10 picked for further analysis; therefore, the clone was picked and designated clone 11c. The filters probed with #4340 were rewashed under more stringent conditions (1 x SSC, 0.1% SDS, 65°C), whereupon the number of putative positive clones was reduced to approximately 6, including the clone 11c which had hybridized with pET-19A.

The picked clones 2c-11c were plated out for a second round of screening. To "pick" the clones, plugs of each clone were removed from the appropriate areas of the agar plates by placing the open end of a sterile Falcon 12 x 75 mm tube over the desired area of the plate corresponding to the positive signal on the filter lifted from the plate, pushing the tube down through the agar, and picking up the plug with a sterile spatula. Each plug was then placed into 1 ml SM buffer (100 mM NaCl; 8 mM MgSO₄; 50 mM Tris pH 7.5; 0.01% gelatin), vortexed, and allowed to sit approximately 20 minutes at room temperature to allow the phage to diffuse out of the agar. One μ l of the resulting suspension for each picked clone was suspended in 1 ml of SM buffer (1:1000 dilution). 10 μ l of each 1:1000 phage dilution was then transferred to a Falcon 75 x 100 mm tube containing 590-600 μ l of plating cells (C600hfl⁻) and then serially diluted out by transferring 10 μ l from this tube to a second tube containing 590-600 μ l of plating cells, and from that tube to a third tube. Phage were absorbed for 20 minutes at 37°C and the phage/C600hfl⁻ mix in each tube was plated out with approximately 10 ml of top agarose in 150 mm agar plates. The plates were incubated overnight at 37°C. Plates having approximately 5,000 phage per plate were used to make plaque lifts onto nitrocellulose filter papers. The DNA on the filters was then denatured by treating the filters with NaOH in the same manner described above for the plaque lifts from the primary screen of the cDNA library. After baking, the filters were prehybridized by immersing them in plastic sealable bags (3 filters/bag) each containing 10 ml of 50% Formamide Buffer, in a rocking water bath for 2 hours at 42°C.

To prepare a probe for screening the filters a double-stranded (replicative form) preparation was made of the M13mp19-derived phage pET-19A. This preparation was digested with EcoRI and HindIII and the 82-base pair insert 5 fragment representing the amplified DNA segment was isolated by gel electrophoresis and then labelled by filling in single-stranded ends with Klenow-fragment polymerase and α -³²P-dNTPs. The probe was boiled for 2 minutes to melt the double-stranded DNA, cooled on ice and then added to the 0 prehybridization buffer in which the filters were immersed. The filters were incubated overnight in a rocking water bath at 42°C and washed in 0.1 x SSC, 0.1% SDS wash buffer at 50°C for 1-1/2 hours with two buffer changes. The filters were exposed to X-ray film overnight at -70 to -80°C.

Three positive clones on the plate representing the re-plating of clone 11c hybridized to the 82 base pair insert fragment from pET-19A. In addition, there appeared to be one questionable positive clone on the plate representing the re-plating of clone 7c. These four positive clones were excised from the agar plates using the wide end of a Pasteur pipet, diluted in plating cells and re-plated for a third round of screening in a manner similar to that previously described. The three plates produced for the third round screening of the three positive clones on the plate representing clone 11c in the second round screening were designated 11A, 11B and 11C. Two plaque lifts were prepared from each plate on nitrocellulose filter paper, as previously described. The DNA on the filters was denatured and baked using procedures similar to those described above. The first set of plaque lifts was screened with radiolabelled probe #4340 (previously described) and the second set of plaque lifts was screened with the previously described probe prepared from the 82 base pair insert of pET-19A.

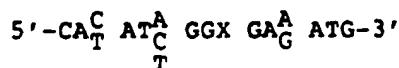
The first set of filters was prehybridized by immersion in plastic bags containing 7 ml of Short Oligo Prehybridization

Buffer at room temperature. Radiolabelled probe #4340 was added to the prehybridization buffer containing these filters. The temperature was brought to 65°C by placing the bags for a few minutes in a shaking water bath set at 65°C. The heat for the water bath was then shut off, allowing the temperature to return slowly to room temperature. Incubation was allowed to proceed for approximately 2-1/2 days at room temperature.

The second set of filters was prehybridized by immersion in plastic bags containing 10 ml of 50% Formamide Buffer, and incubation at 42°C. The probe prepared from the 82 base pair insert of pET-19A was boiled and added directly to the prehybridization buffer containing the second set of filters. The hybridization reaction was incubated at 42°C in a rocking water bath for approximately 2-1/2 days.

The set of filters hybridized with probe #4340 was washed in 1 x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 55°C. The set of filters hybridized with the probe derived from pET-19A were washed at 55°C in 0.1 x SSC, 0.1% SDS. Both sets of filters were exposed to X-ray film for 3-1/2 hours. Several plaques on plates 11A, 11B and 11C hybridized strongly to both probe #4340 and the 82 base pair insert from pET-19A. No plaques on the plate representing a dilution of the pick from plate 7c of the second round screening hybridized to either probe. Two strongly hybridizing plaques from plate 11A were picked using the thin end of a Pasteur pipet. These clones, designated 11A' and 11B', were diluted in plating cells and replated, as previously described, for a fourth round of screening.

Two plaque lifts were prepared on nitrocellulose filter paper from each of the plates prepared from positive clones 11A' and 11B'. The DNA on the filters was denatured and baked using procedures similar to those described above. Each set of filters was prehybridized by immersion in a plastic bag containing 10 ml of Short Oligo Prehybridization Buffer and incubating at room temperature. The first plaque lift from each of plates 11A' and 11B' was screened with radiolabelled probe #4340 (previously described). The probe was added to the plastic bag containing the filters and prehybridization buffer and incubated first at 65°C and then with slow cooling as described above. The second plaque lift from each of plates 11A' and 11B' was screened with a radiolabelled 48-fold degenerate mixed oligonucleotide probe, identified as probe #4255, which was based on the amino acid sequence derived from an internal tryptic fragment of bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor and which has the sequence



The hybridization conditions were the same as just described for probe #4340. The plaque lifts from plates 11A' and 11B' were washed with 1 x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 55°C (#4340) or 3 x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 30°C and then with 3 M tetramethylammonium chloride (TMACl), 0.05 M Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 0.1% SDS, 0.002 M EDTA at 45°C (#4255) and exposed to film. The plaques from both plates were found to hybridize to both probe #4340 and probe #4255, with all plaques on each filter hybridizing. It was concluded that clones 11A' and 11B' constitute single, pure clones.

The DNA insert in clone 11B' was sequenced by first digesting the phage DNA with EcoRI, fractionating the digest on a 6% polyacrylamide gel, electroeluting the approximately 800 base pair insert fragment, and ligating the fragment into EcoRI-cut M13mp18. The insert was then sequenced by the dideoxynucleotide procedure, using standard methods. The nucleotide sequence, as well as the encoded amino acid sequence, is shown in Fig. 3a (only nucleotides 7 through 795 of the 797-nucleotide insert sequence are shown in the figure; the EcoRI linker sequences on each end have been omitted). The 797-nucleotide insert sequence encodes the known portion of the amino acid sequence of bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor, beginning at amino acid no. 15 of the known protein sequence. The open reading frame extends to an in-frame translation stop codon at nucleotide 327. The insert sequence of clone 11B' was ligated into the EcoRI site of plasmid pUC8. The resulting plasmid, designated pST800, has been deposited in an *E. coli* JM83 host at the American Type Culture Collection, Rockville, MD with Accession No. 68060.

A full length coding sequence for a mature form of bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor is represented by the sequence of Fig. 3a, taken together with the sequence in Fig. 3b. The double-stranded DNA sequence shown in Fig. 3b, with the translation initiation codon, ATG, near its 5' end, represents a sequence of nucleotides, selected on the basis of preferred codon choice for gene expression in human cells, which encodes the indicated N-terminal portion of the bovine protein (preceded by an initiating methionine residue) and which overlaps the coding sequence shown in Fig. 3a. The DNA sequence of Fig. 3b can be synthesized using known methods of oligonucleotide synthesis and enzymatically joined to a portion of the sequence shown in Fig. 3a, which can be conveniently obtained from the plasmid deposited at ATCC, in order to produce a full-length coding sequence for a mature form of bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor. Before the sequences in Figs. 3a and 3b are joined, the sequence in Fig. 3a is excised from the plasmid pST800 using EcoRI, and the isolated insert is digested with NlaIV which cuts the insert five times, all within the 3' untranslated region. A linker encoding a convenient restriction site, e.g. HindIII, is then joined at the 5'-most NlaIV site via blunt-end ligation. The resulting ligation mix is then digested with AccI and the linker enzyme (e.g. HindIII), to release a 325 base pair fragment (AccI-NlaIV) of the pST800 insert with a digested linker ligated at the 3' end (at the NlaIV site). This fragment is purified and ligated to the synthetic fragment shown in Fig. 3b. After digestion of the ligation mix with NcoI and the restriction enzyme that cleaves the linker (e.g. HindIII, if a HindIII linker is used),

a fragment is produced with the desired coding sequence for a mature form of bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor, flanked on the 5' side with a digested NcoI site, and on the 3' side by a digested restriction site useful for insertion of the fragment into an expression vector.

The composite sequence is inserted into an appropriate expression vector under the control of regulatory elements capable of directing its expression in a prokaryotic or eukaryotic host. For expression in *E. coli*, a convenient vector would be pKK233-2 (Amman and Brosius, *Gene* (1985) 40:183-190), which is commercially available from Pharmacia, Inc. Insertion of the composite sequence between the NcoI and HindIII sites of this vector would place the coding sequence under the control of the *lac* promoter. The expression vector is then used to transform a suitable host, such as *E. coli* and the transformants are cultured under conditions in which the encoded DNA is expressed. The expressed protein is then recovered by means which are conventional in the art.

Of course, other sequences could be joined to the sequence in Fig. 3a. For example, the sequence in Fig. 3b could be altered so that the 5' end represents an NdeI site, rather than NcoI. For expression in mammalian cells the coding sequence in Fig. 3b could be extended in the 5' direction such that it encodes the amino-terminal sequence of bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor operably joined to a secretion signal sequence, e.g. the signal sequence for human growth hormone.

Alternatively, the coding sequence represented by Fig. 3a can be used as a probe, under standard conditions for DNA hybridization, to retrieve native, full-length DNA sequences encoding bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor or the corresponding protein in other mammalian species, including man. The sequence of Fig. 3a can be used as a probe to retrieve the desired sequences from either cDNA or genomic DNA libraries.

Clones extended toward the 5' end of the bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor mRNA were generated by priming first-strand cDNA synthesis as described above in Example 1 using as a primer the antisense oligonucleotide 4338 (5'-GCCAAGCTTGCACCAGGGTCTCGATGGGACGGCAGAA-3') and then ligating onto the 5' end of the resulting duplex a partially double-stranded linker molecule consisting of the oligonucleotides no. 4537 and 4514 (5'-GATCGCGG-3' and 5'-CCGCGATCAAGCTTCCCGGAATTCGGC-3', respectively). Finally, the products were amplified by polymerase chain reaction using as primers the oligonucleotides 4338 and 4315 (5'-GCCGAATTCGGGGAAGCTTGATCGCGG; complementary to 4514). Upon sequencing by the dideoxynucleotide method, the resulting clones gave the 5' sequences shown in Fig. 6.

Example 4 (Reference)

Retrieval of cDNA Encoding Bovine Vascular Endothelial Cell Growth Factor (bVEGF₁₆₄)

To isolate VEGF forms other than bVEGF₁₂₀ (Fig. 3a), first-strand cDNA synthesis was carried out using follicle stellate poly(A)⁺ RNA as a template and using as a primer the antisense oligonucleotide 4456 (5'-GTAGTTCTGTGTCAGTCTTTCCTGGTGAGACGTCTGGTCCCGAAACCCTGAGGGAGGCT-3'). The resulting products were then amplified by 30 rounds of polymerase chain reaction, using as primers the antisense oligonucleotide 4456 and the sense oligonucleotide 4414 (5'-TTCTGCCGTCCCATCGAGACCCTGGTGGACATCTTCCAGGAGTACCCAGATGAGATT-3'). Polyacrylamide gel analysis and DNA sequencing of the products revealed two species of cDNA encoding vascular endothelial cell growth factor, as shown in Fig. 6. The open reading frame which includes the 132 bp insert shown in the box in Fig. 6 encodes bVEGF₁₆₄.

Example 5

Retrieval of Genomic DNA Encoding Human Vascular Endothelial Cell Growth Factor

Human genomic clones containing DNA encoding amino acid sequences of vascular endothelial cell growth factor were isolated from a commercially available human lung fibroblast genomic library (Stratagene Inc., La Jolla, CA). One μ l of stock phage (approximately 3×10^{10} phage/ml) was diluted into 1 ml SM Buffer and 20 μ l of CHCl_3 were added. LE 392 cells (hsdR514 (r⁻, m⁻), supE44, supF58, lacY1 or Δ (lacZY)6, galK2, galT22, metB1, trpR55, λ^-) were grown in NZYM medium to an O.D.₆₀₀ of 0.5 and the cells were spun out and resuspended in 10 mM MgSO_4 . In each of 30 tubes, 2 μ l of diluted phage stock were mixed with 0.6 ml of cells and 5 incubated at 37°C for 15 minutes. Ten ml of NZYM top agar were added to each tube, and the contents of each tube were plated out on a 150 mm NZYM plate and incubated at 37°C for 16 hours before reducing the temperature to 4°C. Two plaque lifts onto nitrocellulose filter paper were taken from each of the 30 plates. The DNA on the filters was denatured and baked as described above in Example 3. The filters were then prehybridized in 40% Formamide Buffer at 37°C for 6 hours.

The filters were probed with a radiolabelled probe which had been prepared by nick translation of gel-purified EcoRI insert fragment from the plasmid pST800, a plasmid made as described in Example 3 above. The 797 base pair EcoRI insert of pST800 contains a cDNA fragment encoding a portion of bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor.

The probe was boiled at 100°C for 2 minutes to melt the double-stranded DNA and then cooled on ice. The probe was added directly to the prehybridization buffer containing the filters at 10⁶ cpm/ml and the filters were hybridized overnight at 37°C. The filters were washed in 1 x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50°C with 3 changes of wash buffer, then blotted dry and exposed to X-ray film overnight at -70 to -80°C. The exposed films indicated approximately 200 positives per plate with 19 clones being characterized as strong positives.

Of the 19 strong positives, 12 were picked and diluted as described in Example 3 above, and replated for a second round of screening. Two sets of plaque lifts were prepared, as previously described, from the replated phage. The filters were prehybridized in 40% Formamide Buffer at 37°C for 6 hours. One set of filters was hybridized overnight at 37°C with the same probe used in the first round screen. The other set of filters was hybridized with nick-translated radiolabelled pUC8 in order to ensure that the picked positives from the first round were not hybridizing with sequences derived from the vector used to subclone the probe sequence. The filters were washed in 1 x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50°C, and exposed to film. On this second round screening, six out of the twelve replated clones were still positive with the probe derived from pST800, and not with the pUC8 probe.

Positive plaques were picked representing each of the six positive clones in the second round screen. The six picked plaques were diluted as before and replated for a third round of screening. Additionally, the 7 strong positive clones from the first round which had not been rescreened were also picked and replated for a second round of screening. Two plaque lifts were prepared, as previously described, from each of the replated clones. The filters were prehybridized in 40% Formamide Buffer at 37°C for 5 hours.

To one set of plaque lifts of the 6 positive clones from the second round of screening there were added 10⁶ cpm/ml of the nick-translated 797-base pair insert probe derived from pST800 as previously described. The filters and probe were hybridized overnight at 37°C in the prehybridization buffer. To the second set of plaque lifts of these 6 positive clones there was added a probe which was prepared by nick-translation of an EcoRI-HpaII fragment of the aforementioned 797-base pair insert of pST800. The EcoRI-HpaII fragment consisted of 331 base pairs at the 5' end of the 797-base pair insert, thereby eliminating the 3' end of the insert which was rich in A and T nucleotides and may have accounted for false positive hybridizations in earlier screening rounds. The probe was hybridized in the prehybridization buffer overnight at 37°C.

To both sets of plaque lifts of the 7 replated first round positive clones there were added 10⁶ cpm/ml of the nick-translated 797-base pair probe. The probe was hybridized in the prehybridization buffer overnight at 37°C.

All of the filters were washed in 1 x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50°C for 2 hours with 2 changes of buffer. The filters were dried and exposed to X-ray film at -70 to -80°C for 3 hours. Of the 7 first round positive clones, 4 gave positive signals with the 797-base pair probe, on the second-round screening. Of the 6 positive clones from the second round screening, 4 gave positive signals with both the 797-base pair and 331-base pair probes on the third round screening.

The 4 second-round positives were picked and subjected to a third round of screening, with one set of plaque lifts being screened with the radiolabeled 797-base pair probe, and the other set being hybridized with the radiolabeled 331-base pair probe, as described above. All 4 were found to hybridize with both probes.

All eight clones that hybridized on the third round screening with both the 797-base pair and 331-base pair probes were picked as single plaques. Phage DNA preps were prepared according to standard methods. Fragments of the genomic DNA inserts in the phage were then transferred to M13mp18 and M13mp19 phage for sequencing, to confirm that they encoded human vascular endothelial cell growth factor. One of the bacteriophage containing a genomic clone encoding human vascular endothelial cell growth factor has been deposited at the American Type Culture Collection, with accession number ATCC 40636.

Sequence analysis of this clone gave the coding sequence for mature human vascular endothelial cell growth factor, as well as the sequence encoding the four amino acids of the signal sequence immediately upstream of the first amino acid of the mature protein. A second genomic clone which overlapped this clone at the 5' end gave the upstream sequence encoding the remainder of the 26-amino acid signal sequence of human vascular endothelial cell growth factor. In order to obtain the second genomic clone which contained the signal sequence and the 5' untranslated region for human vascular endothelial cell growth factor, a genomic library (the same one as before) was screened using oligonucleotide 5'-CTCTCTTGGGTACATTGGAGCCTTGCCTTGCTGCTCTACCTTCACCATGCCAAG. The oligonucleotide sequence was derived from a bovine cDNA which was generated via PCR. Approximately 1.2 x 10⁶ phage were screened. Duplicate nitrocellulose filter plaque lifts were treated with NaOH, neutralizing, and 6 x SSC buffers, for 4 min each. After air drying, they were baked in a vacuum oven for 2 hours at 80°C. Prehybridization was carried out using short oligo prehybridization buffer at room temperature for 6 hours. 2 x 10⁶ cpm/ml of the [³²P]-labeled oligonucleotide was added to the filters and hybridized in the same buffer overnight at room temperature. Filters were washed in 1 x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50°C for 2 hours with two changes of buffer. Filters were exposed to X-ray film overnight. First round positives were subject to plaque purification and rescreening. One positive clone resulted.

The composite genomic sequence obtained from these two clones is represented in Fig. 8. The figure represents eight exons (indicated by roman numerals), which encode the native signal sequence and all of the forms of human vascular endothelial cell growth factor which can arise from differential message splicing. The complete intron sequence-

es are not represented, but rather only the "junction" sequences contiguous with each of the exons are presented. As the exons are drawn in Fig. 8, mature hVEGF₁₂₁ is encoded by exons II-V and VIII; hVEGF₁₆₅ is encoded by exons I-V, VII and VIII; and mature hVPF₁₈₉ is encoded by exons II-VIII.

5 Example 6

Retrieval of cDNA Encoding Human Vascular Endothelial Cell Growth Factor

Cell Source of Vascular Endothelial Cell Growth Factor mRNA

10

Vascular smooth muscle cells produce high levels of mRNA encoding the vascular endothelial cell growth factor protein and are therefore a good source of mRNA for the preparation of a cDNA library enriched in vascular endothelial cell growth factor sequences. Fetal human vascular smooth muscle (fhVSM) cells are cultured in low glucose Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium (DMEM-16, GIBCO) supplemented with 10% (v/v) Fetal Bovine Serum (HYCLONE), 2 mM L-glutamine, 100 U each of penicillin and streptomycin per ml, and recombinant human basic fibroblast growth factor (added at a concentration of 1 ng/ml every 48 hours). Cells are subcultivated at confluence, and are typically seeded at 25% confluence.

15

Poly(A)⁺ RNA Isolation

20

For the isolation of vascular smooth muscle cell mRNA, the cells are typically grown to confluence and then treated or not with phorbol myristate acetate (PMA) to additionally stimulate synthesis of vascular endothelial cell growth factor mRNA. The cell monolayer is rinsed twice with 5 to 20 ml of Dulbecco's Phosphate Buffered Saline (D-PBS) to remove residual media before isolating RNA according to the methods of Chirgwin et al., *Biochemistry* (1979) 18:5294-5299. With this method, cells in the monolayer are lysed by the direct addition of a lysis buffer (4.0 M guanidine thiocyanate, 0.1% Antifoam A, 25 mM sodium citrate, 0.5% N-lauroyl sarcosine, and 100 mM β-mercaptoethanol). After shearing DNA by passage through a syringe needle, RNA is directly precipitated by the addition of acetic acid and ethanol. The precipitated RNA is then resuspended in diethylpyrocarbonate (DEP)-treated deionized water (D-H₂O, typically about 400 μl) and 2.6 ml of guanidine-HCl buffer (7.5 M guanidine hydrochloride, 25 mM sodium citrate, 5 mM dithiothreitol) is added and the RNA precipitated by the addition of acetic acid and ethanol. The precipitated RNA is again resuspended in about 400 μl of DEP-treated d-H₂O and precipitated by the addition of sodium acetate and ethanol.

25

30

Total cellular RNA isolated by the guanidine-thiocyanate procedure (above) is further fractionated by oligo d(T)-cellulose chromatography to isolate poly(A)⁺ RNA following established procedures (Edmonds, M., et al., *PNAS* (1971) 68:1336; Aviv, H. and Leder, P., *PNAS* (1972) 69:1408).

35

cDNA Synthesis and Cloning of Vascular Endothelial Cell Growth Factor cDNA in λZAPII

cDNA synthesis is performed according to the methods of Gubler and Hoffmann (*Gene*, 25:263-269) using a cDNA synthesis kit purchased from Boehringer-Mannheim Biochemicals. The method is briefly described as follows: first strand cDNA synthesis is primed using oligo d(T)₁₅ as a primer to begin synthesis by reverse transcriptase from the 3'-ends in 5-20 μg of fhVSM poly (A)⁺ RNA. Limited digestion of the resulting RNA-DNA hybrid with RNase H provides 3'-OH primers for synthesis of the second DNA strand using *E. coli* DNA polymerase I. T₄ DNA polymerase is then used to remove any remaining overhanging 3'-ends, yielding a blunt-ended cDNA product.

40

Before insertion into a lambda cloning vector such as λZAPII (Stratagene Inc., La Jolla, CA), the blunt-ended cDNA is methylated (e.g. with EcoRI methylase) according to standard procedures to block cleavage of a particular subset of the restriction sites present in the cDNA (i.e., methylation with EcoRI methylase will block cleavage of the cDNA by EcoRI). The cDNA is then ligated to oligonucleotide linkers (e.g. EcoRI linkers, GGAATTC), the linkers are cleaved with the appropriate restriction endonuclease (e.g. EcoRI), and the cDNA is finally ligated into a suitable cloning site in the lambda vector (e.g. the EcoRI site of λZAPII) after removal of excess linkers. Subsequent to ligating the cDNA to vector arms, the cloned cDNA is "packaged" with a lambda packaging extract such as Gigapack II Gold (Stratagene, Inc., La Jolla, CA).

45

50

After packaging, the lambda phage are titered on the appropriate host strain (e.g. XL1-Blue, Stratagene, Inc., La Jolla, CA, for the λZAPII vector), then plated on 150 mm plates of NZYM agar at a titer of between 10,000 and 50,000 pfu/plate. Following growth for 6-8 hours at 37°C, the plates are chilled to 4°C and plaque lifts onto nitrocellulose (B&B, SCHLEICHER AND SCHUELL) or Hybond-N (AMERSHAM) membranes are prepared according to standard procedures (Benton, W.D. and Davis, R.W., *Science* (1977) 196:180). Clones containing sequences homologous or partially homologous to vascular endothelial cell growth factor sequences are detected by hybridization to ³²P-labeled bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor probes derived from the cDNA insert in pST800 (Example 3 above) or vascular

55

endothelial cell growth factor sequence-specific oligonucleotides based on the sequence given in Fig. 3a. The hybridizations are carried out in standard hybridization buffers containing between 20% and 50% formamide and between 0 and 10% dextran sulfate, and are performed at between 37° and 42°C. Clones hybridizing to the vascular endothelial cell growth factor probes are subsequently single-plaque purified and the related sequences subcloned into bacteriophage M13 vectors such as M13mp18 and M13mp19 for DNA sequence analysis.

The human cDNA sequence for vascular endothelial cell growth factor can be used to predict the specific amino acid sequence of the human vascular endothelial cell growth factor gene products. The cDNA can also be joined to transcriptional control elements in constructs designed to express the human vascular endothelial cell growth factor protein product in bacteria such as *E. coli*, or in yeast or mammalian cells.

Example 7

DNA and Amino Acid Sequences of Human Vascular Endothelial Cell Growth Factor (hVEGF₁₂₁ and hVEGF₁₆₅)

Following the procedures set forth in Example 6, cDNA clones encoding human vascular endothelial cell growth factor were prepared and isolated. Sequence analysis of several clones confirmed that alternative message splicing occurs analogously to the bovine case. Accordingly, there are expressed forms of the human protein which correspond to the bVEGF₁₂₀ and bVEGF₁₆₄ proteins (however, since the human proteins contain an additional amino acid at position 7 not found in the bovine forms of vascular endothelial cell growth factor, the human forms of vascular endothelial cell growth factor contain 121 and 165 residues, respectively). A cDNA clone containing a portion of the coding region for hVEGF₁₂₁, designated λ H3, has been deposited with the American Type Culture Collection with accession number 40728. A cDNA clone containing a portion of the coding region for hVEGF₁₆₅, designated λ H2, has also been deposited with accession number 40727. Further clones can be obtained in an analogous fashion encoding the entire primary translation products for hVEGF₁₂₁ and hVEGF₁₆₅.

Based on composite sequence information obtained from the deposited human genomic clone of Example 5 and several cDNA clones obtained by the procedure described in Example 6, the native DNA coding sequences for hVEGF₁₂₁ and hVEGF₁₆₅ were determined. The DNA sequences are shown in Fig. 7. The boxed sequence of 132 nucleotides comprises the DNA sequence corresponding to the alternatively spliced portion of the message. When this sequence is present in the translated message, the encoded protein is hVEGF₁₆₅, the amino acid sequence of which is given directly above the nucleotide sequence of Fig. 7. When this sequence is not present in the translated message, the encoded protein is hVEGF₁₂₁. This form of the protein has the same amino acid sequence as hVEGF₁₆₅ through position 114. The carboxyl-terminal sequence of hVEGF₁₂₁, beginning at position 112, is shown in italics below the nucleotide sequence in Fig. 7. Contiguous cDNA sequences encoding hVEGF₁₂₁ and hVEGF₁₆₅ can be generated from synthetic oligonucleotides, or through the use of polymerase chain reactions from human fetal vascular smooth muscle poly(A)⁺ RNA, using methods analogous to those described in Example 4.

Example 8

Expression of Polypeptides Having Amino Acid Sequences of Forms of Human Vascular Endothelial Cell Growth Factor

A cDNA clone containing the entire coding region for the primary translation product of human vascular endothelial cell growth factor (hVEGF₁₂₁ or hVEGF₁₆₅) is most conveniently used in complete or truncated (modified) form to produce the recombinant protein in a variety of hosts as set forth in Standard Procedures above. However, expression in mammalian systems is favored as the host is capable of post translational processing analogous to that experienced by the natively produced protein, and either cDNA or genomic sequences may be used, as the host is also capable of processing introns.

Thus, a cDNA or genomic clone containing the entire coding region for either form of human vascular endothelial cell growth factor is prepared for insertion into a host vector, illustrated by, but not limited to, those described below.

To construct the vectors, the cloned cDNA or genomic insert is excised from the cloning vector in which it was isolated. The insert is provided with NcoI, BamHI, EcoRI or other appropriate linkers if necessary, and then inserted into an appropriate host vector such as pHS1 or its derivatives as described below. Alternatively, *in vitro* mutagenesis may be used to introduce convenient restriction sites or additional coding sequences into the cloned insert, before excision of the insert and insertion into an appropriate vector.

Construction of Host Vectors pHS1

The plasmid pHS1 is suitable for expression of inserted DNA in mammalian hosts. It contains approximately 840 base pair of the human metallothionein-II_A (hMT-II_A) sequence from p84H (Karin, M., et al., *Nature* (1982) 299:797-802).

which spans from the HindIII site at position -765 of the hMT-II_A gene to the BamHI cleavage site at base +70. To construct pHSI, plasmid p84H was digested to completion with BamHI, treated with exonuclease BAL-31 to remove terminal nucleotides, and then digested with HindIII. The desired approximately 840 base pair fragment was ligated into pUC8 (Vieira, J., et al., *Gene* (1982) 19:259-268) which had been opened with HindIII and HindII digestion. The ligation mixture was used to transform *E. coli* HB101 to Amp^R, and one candidate plasmid, designated pHSI, was isolated and sequenced by dideoxy sequencing. pHSI contains the hMT-II_A control sequences upstream of a polylinker containing convenient restriction sites (BamHI, SmaI, and EcoRI).

The workable host plasmid pHSI can be further modified to contain additional control elements besides the metallothionein promoter. In particular, the enhancer elements of viral systems, such as SV40, can be included, as well as termination signals associated with the 3' untranslated regions of other proteins such as human growth hormone (hGH).

Viral Enhancer

A pair of host expression vectors containing the SV40 enhancer in operable linkage to the MT-II_A promoter was constructed by inserting an 1118 base pair SV40 DNA fragment into the HindIII site preceding the MT-II_A promoter sequences of pHSI. The SV40 DNA fragment spans the SV40 origin of replication and includes nucleotide 5172 through nucleotide 5243 (at the origin), the duplicated 72 base pair repeat from nucleotide 107-250, and continues through nucleotide 1046 on the side of the origin containing the 5' end of late viral genes. This HindIII 1118 base pair fragment is obtained from a HindIII digest of SV40 DNA (Buchman, A.R., et al., *DNA Tumor Viruses*, 2nd ed (J. Tooze, ed.), Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, New York (1981), pp. 799-841), and cloned into pBR322 for amplification. The pBR322 vector containing the SV40 fragment was cut with HindIII, and the 1118 base pair SV40 DNA fragment was isolated by gel electrophoresis and ligated into HindIII-digested, CIP-treated, pHSI. The resulting vectors, designated pHSI-SV(9) and pHSI-SV(10), contain the SV40 fragment in opposite orientation preceding the MT-II_A promoter. In pHSI-SV(9), the enhancer is about 1600 base pair from the 5' mRNA start site of the MT-II_A promoter, in the opposite orientation it is approximately 980 base pair from the 5' mRNA start site. Both orientations are operable, but the orientation wherein the enhancer sequences are proximal to the start site provides higher levels of expression. It is believed that deletions which place the enhancer 250-400 base pairs upstream of the transcription start are optimal.

Additional vectors were constructed which place the SV40 enhancer 3' terminus 190 base pairs, 250 base pairs, and 360 base pairs respectively upstream from the 5' end of the MT-II_A promoter TATA box. The constructions were based on the mapping of the upstream regulatory regions of the human MT-II_A promoter described by Karin, M., et al., *Nature* (1984) 308:513-519. All constructions retain the sequences containing the duplicated sites for regulation by heavy metals, but the constructions with the 190 base pair and 250 base pair separations do not retain the sequence for glucocorticoid regulation which is further upstream from these heavy metal regulatory sites.

These vectors, designated pHS'-SV190, pHS'-SV250, and pHS'-SV360 are prepared as outlined below. All constructions are identical except for the length of sequence containing the metallothionein promoter and upstream region which is supplied as a fragment excised from pHSI.

For pHS'-SV190, pHSI is digested with SacII, blunted, and ligated to KpnI linkers. The DNA is then digested with EcoRI and KpnI to liberate the appropriate portion of the MT-II_A control sequences. Similarly, for pHS'-SV250, pHSI is digested with HgaI, blunted, ligated to KpnI linkers and digested with EcoRI and KpnI; for pHS'-SV360, DdeI is used in the initial digestion.

An intermediate vector containing the SV40 enhancer is prepared by inserting the HindIII/KpnI fragment of SV40 (which extends from position 5172 to position 298 and which contains the enhancer element 50 base pairs from the KpnI site) into KpnI/HindIII digested pUC19 to obtain pUC-SV. (pUC19 contains three convenient restriction sites in the polylinker region, in order, HindIII, KpnI, and EcoRI.) The finished vectors are obtained by inserting the KpnI/EcoRI fragments prepared as described above into KpnI/EcoRI digested pUC-SV.

All of the foregoing modified vectors, thus, take advantage of the SV40 enhancer element. Other viral enhancers could, of course, be used in an analogous manner.

Transcription Termination Sequences

To provide transcription termination control sequences, DNA representing the coding sequence and 3' untranslated sequence of human growth hormone was ligated into pHSI. The intermediate vector can provide the hGH 3' untranslated sequence to coding sequences subsequently ligated into the vector in place of the hGH coding sequence.

The genomic sequences encoding hGH were isolated from p2.6-3 (DeNoto, et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.* (1981) 19: 3719) by digestion with BamHI, which cuts at the 5' end of the first exon, and EcoRI, which cuts 3' of the functional gene, followed by polyacrylamide gel purification. The isolated fragment was ligated into BamHI/EcoRI digested pHSI and the ligation mixture transformed into *E. coli* MC1061 to Amp^R. Successful transformants were screened by restric-

tion analysis, and a strain containing the desired plasmid, pMT-hGHg, was further propagated to prepare quantities of plasmid DNA.

In a manner similar to that described above for construction pHS1-SV(9) or pHS1-SV(10), but substituting for pHS1, pMT-hGHg, a pair of vectors containing the hGH gene under the control of the MT-II_A promoter, and operably linked to the SV40 enhancer, and designated, respectively, phGHg-SV(9) and phGHg-SV(10), were obtained. The ligation mixtures were used to transform *E. coli* MC1061 to Amp^R, and the correct constructions verified.

Construction of Expression Vectors

phGHg-SV(10) is used as a host vector to accommodate human vascular endothelial cell growth factor. phGHg-SV(10) is digested with BamHI and SmaI, blunted with Klenow, and treated with CIP to excise the hGH coding sequence. This opened vector is ligated to the insert fragment derived from a cDNA or genomic clone encoding full-length vascular endothelial cell growth factor to obtain expression vector pVEGF-SV(10).

As shown in Fig. 8, the full primary translation product of the vascular endothelial cell growth factor gene contains a 26 amino acid secretion signal sequence which is capable of effecting secretion of mature vascular endothelial cell growth factor into mammalian cell culture media. If desired, synthetic oligonucleotides can be added to the coding sequence of mature vascular endothelial cell growth factor to operably join a heterologous secretion signal sequence (e.g. from hGH) to the vascular endothelial cell growth factor produced in the primary translation product. In either case, secretion of the product should result.

In addition, other host vectors may be used to obtain expression of the vascular endothelial cell growth factor gene or cDNA sequences, including pHS1 and pHSI modified to contain the various configurations of SV40 enhancer as above described. Finally, the host vectors may be further modified such that they encode not only vascular endothelial cell growth factor, but the neomycin resistance gene (obtained from pSV2:NEO) and/or the human metallothionein-II_A protein as well (called pMT-VEGF-NEO or pMT-VEGF-NEO-MT).

These vectors are generically designated pMT-VEGF for the purposes of the discussion below.

Production of Vascular Endothelial Cell Growth Factor by Mammalian Recombinants

Chinese hamster ovary (CHO)-K1 cells are grown in medium composed of a 1:1 mixture of F12 medium and DME medium with 12% fetal calf serum. The competent cells are co-transformed with pMT-VEGF and pSV2:NEO (Southern, P., et al., *J. Mol. Appl. Genet.* (1982) 1:327-341). pSV2:NEO contains a functional gene conferring resistance to the neomycin analog G418. In the transformation, 1 µg of pSV2:NEO and 10 µg of pMT-VEGF are applied to cells in a calcium phosphate-DNA co-precipitate according to the protocol of Wigler, M., et al., *Cell* (1979) 16:777-785, with the inclusion of a two minute "shock" with 15% glycerol after four hours of exposure to the DNA. Alternatively, the cells can be transformed with 10 µg pMT-VEGF-NEO or pMT-VEGF-NEO-MT, using the same calcium phosphate protocol. A day later, the cells are subjected to 1 mg/ml G418 to provide a pool of G418-resistant colonies. After sufficient growth of the pool of resistant colonies, the pool is assayed for vascular endothelial cell growth factor production in either cell-associated or secreted form.

Successful G418-resistant transformants, also having a stable inheritance of pMT-VEGF, or other vascular endothelial cell growth factor expression plasmid, are plated at low density for purification of clonal isolates. Small amounts of these isolates are grown in multi-well plates after exposure to 2×10^{-4} M zinc chloride for convenient assay of vascular endothelial cell growth factor production. Vascular endothelial cell growth factor determinations are made by mitogenic assays testing endothelial cell mitogenic activity present in the cells and/or conditioned medium, or by standard ELISA or radioimmunoassays against the antisera prepared against the appropriate vascular endothelial cell growth factor protein or peptides using standard methods. Clonal isolates which produce large amounts of the desired vascular endothelial cell growth factor, preferably in secreted form, are selected.

The cells are seeded at 1/10 confluency in basal medium (1:1 mix of F12 medium and DME medium) supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum, incubated overnight, and then induced for vascular endothelial cell growth factor production by addition of zinc chloride in the concentration range of 1×10^{-4} M to 3×10^{-4} M.

In another method for establishing vascular endothelial cell growth factor cells, CHO cells are cotransformed with pMT-VEGF, pSV:NEO, and pHSI containing a human MT-II_A insert (pHS1-MT) or with pMT-VEGF-NEO-MT. After G418 selection, pooled resistant colonies are selected for cadmium resistance (due to expression of MT-II_A protein) by growing them in the presence of 10 µM CdCl₂ with 100 µM ZnCl₂ as inducer. Pools of resistant clones are then assayed, as described above, to measure vascular endothelial cell growth factor production levels.

By including in the expression vector construction an operable secretion signal sequence for vascular endothelial cell growth factor, such as the native vascular endothelial cell growth factor signal or the signal derived from hGH, secretion using the normal constitutive pathways could be effected using CHO or other mammalian cell hosts. Effecting secretion has some advantages, of course, since the protein purification task becomes much simpler, and folding of

the protein may be closer to the native configuration, eliminating the need for refolding steps. Purification of the secreted vascular endothelial cell growth factor can then be carried out according to the procedures set forth in Example 9, or by other standard methods known in the art, which may include such steps as ion-exchange chromatography, size-exclusion chromatography, separation by hydrophobicity, e.g. reverse-phase HPLC, and antibody-affinity chromatography using anti-vascular endothelial cell growth factor antibodies produced according to known techniques.

Example 9

Recovery of Polypeptide and Formation of Dimeric Vascular Endothelial Cell Growth Factor

When expressed in a mammalian expression system in such a way as to obtain secretion of the produced growth factor, hVEGF₁₆₅ can be purified by the procedure of Gospodarowicz, et al., PNAS (1989) 86(19):7311-7315. The medium conditioned by the host cells expressing the growth factor is centrifuged at 10000 g for 15 to 30 minutes. The supernatant solution is adjusted to pH 5 to 6 with 1 N HCl, and at least 500 g of ammonium sulfate is added per liter. The solution is stirred for 2 to 6 hours at 4°C and then centrifuged for 30 to 60 minutes at 10000 g. The supernatant is discarded, and the pellet is retained for further purification.

The pellet is redissolved in 5 to 25 mM Tris, pH 6.5 to 8.0, containing 25 to 100 mM NaCl. The solution is dialysed overnight against the same buffer. Any precipitated material is centrifuged out of solution and discarded (10000 g, 30 to 60 minutes). The solution is loaded onto a column of heparin-Sepharose, which is equilibrated with the same buffer used for dialysis. After all of the protein solution is loaded, the column is washed with the equilibration buffer until the eluant absorbance returns to baseline levels. The protein is step-eluted from the column with equilibration buffer containing between 0.1 M and 2.5 M NaCl. Active fractions are combined and concentrated in an Amicon stirred cell with a 10,000 MW cutoff membrane.

The concentrated biologically active material which is collected from the heparin-Sepharose column is applied to a column of Bio-Gel P-60 equilibrated in phosphate buffered saline. The column is eluted in the same buffer and the biologically active fractions are combined. This material is diluted three fold with 20 mM HEPES pH 8.3 and loaded onto a Mono-S column. The column is eluted with a gradient of 0.0 M to 1.0 M NaCl in the same buffer. For structural studies, the final purification is accomplished on a Vydac C4 reverse phase column (RP-HPLC) with a gradient of 10 to 60% acetonitrile in water containing 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid.

When a bacterial expression system is used to produce the protein in inclusion bodies, the product is purified in a manner analogous to the method of Hoppe, et al., *Biochemistry* (1989) 28:2956-2960. The cells are suspended in 5 to 25 mM Tris pH 6.5 to 8.0, 1 mM EDTA and are ruptured by passage through a microfluidizer. The solution is centrifuged at 10000 g for 15 to 30 minutes and the pellet is washed with 5 to 25 mM Tris pH 6.5 to 8.0, 1 mM EDTA and 1 to 2% Triton X-100.

The pellet is resuspended in 20 mM Tris pH 7.5, 1 mM EDTA, 6 M guanidine-HCl, 0.1 M Na₂SO₃, and 0.01 mM Na₂S₄O₆, and the solution is left at room temperature for 4 to 12 hours. This step converts the molecule to the monomeric form. Insoluble material is removed by centrifugation.

The resulting S-sulfonated protein is chromatographed on Sephacryl S-200 equilibrated in 10 to 50 mM Tris pH 6.5 to 8.0, 1 mM EDTA, 3 to 6 M guanidine-HCl. Those fractions containing the protein are pooled and are dialysed against water. Final purification of the S-sulfonated protein is accomplished on RP-HPLC C4 chromatography. The protein is eluted with a linear gradient of 0% to 100% acetonitrile (chamber A for making the gradient is 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid in water and chamber B is 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid in acetonitrile).

The protein is dissolved to a final concentration of 0.1 to 0.5 mg/ml in 50 mM Tris pH 8.0, 1 mM EDTA, 5 mM glutathione and 0.5 mM glutathione disulfide with enough urea to maintain solubility of the protein. At this step the protein folds to form the native homodimeric structure of vascular endothelial cell growth factor. After two days the protein is repurified on same RP-HPLC system as above, or by affinity chromatography steps such as heparin-Sepharose or Mono-S. Monomers are separated from dimers by chromatography on S-Sepharose in 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5; the dimers are eluted from the column with 20 mM Tris, pH 7.5 containing 0.7 M NaCl. Since we have discovered that hVEGF₁₂₁ (corresponding to bVEGF₁₂₀) lacks the heparin binding characteristics of hVEGF₁₆₅ and hVPF₁₆₉, purification of hVEGF₁₂₁ and bVEGF₁₂₀ is carried out using steps other than heparin-Sepharose chromatography.

Example 10

Wound Healing Formulations Containing Vascular Endothelial Cell Growth Factor

A parenteral solution suitable for administration intravascularly via catheter to a wound site can be prepared by dissolving vascular endothelial cell growth factor (bVEGF₁₂₀, or hVEGF₁₂₁) in water for injection, together with a suitable amount of buffer to maintain stable pH in the range of 5.0 to 7.0 and a suitable amount of sodium chloride to

EP 0 484 401 B1

attain isotonicity. A typical composition is as follows:

	mg/ml
Vascular endothelial cell growth factor	0.05-1.0
Citric acid	0.2
Sodium chloride	8.5
0.01 N sodium hydroxide to adjust pH to 6.0	
Water for injection sufficient to make 1.0 ml	

The solution described above can also be applied topically to a wound site with the assistance of a mechanical spray pump.

An aqueous gel, suitable for topical application to a wound site, can be prepared by dispersing the thickening agent hydroxyethylcellulose (250H grade) in an aqueous solution containing buffer, preservative and tonicity modifier. When the thickening agent is completely dissolved, a concentrated aqueous solution of vascular endothelial cell growth factor is added and mixed until the product is uniform. The following pharmaceutical composition is typical of such a gel:

	mg/ml
Vascular endothelial cell growth factor	0.05-1.0
Hydroxyethylcellulose (250H)	20
Chlorhexidine gluconate	2.5
Citric acid	0.5
Glycerin	20
0.01 N sodium hydroxide to adjust pH to 6.0	
Purified water sufficient to make 1 ml	

A dry powder, suitable for dusting onto a wound site, can be prepared by lyophilizing vascular endothelial cell growth factor with a water soluble carrier and comminuting the lyophilized product to yield a powder of uniform particle size. The powder can be applied to the wound site directly or with the aid of an aerosol propellant. A typical powder composition is prepared as follows:

	mg/ml
Vascular endothelial cell growth factor	0.05-1.0
Dextran (Mol. wt. 1000)	100
Purified water sufficient to make 1 ml	

The solution is freeze dried and the resulting dried substance is ground in a ball mill to a medium particle size of about 75 μ m. The powder can be applied by a shaker. In case a large surface area needs to be covered, the powder can be delivered by an aerosol-driven canister containing fluorocarbon (Freon[®]), hydrocarbon (isobutane) or compressed gas (carbon dioxide) as the propellant.

Example 11

Preparation of Chimeric Growth Factor

A chimeric molecule containing one chain of vascular endothelial cell growth factor and one A chain of platelet-derived growth factor is prepared by first constructing vectors for the recombinant expression of these two molecules. Expression vectors to direct the synthesis of human vascular endothelial cell growth factor in mammalian cells are described in Example 8. The preferred vector is one that is constructed such that the synthesized vascular endothelial cell growth factor is secreted from the host cell (e.g., pHg-SV(10), altered such that the coding region for the full primary translation product of vascular endothelial cell growth factor, including the native vascular endothelial cell growth factor secretion signal, is operably inserted between the BamHI and SmaI sites of the parental vector). A similar vector is constructed for the expression of the A chain of platelet-derived growth factor by taking a synthetic or partially-synthetic DNA fragment having the sequence shown in Fig. 4a (which encodes the full primary translation product of

the A chain), digesting with BamHI and EcoRV, and inserting the resulting coding region fragment between the BamHI and SmaI sites of pHgH-SV(10).

For production of the growth factor chains, the expression plasmids are introduced into mammalian hosts cells, such as CHO cells, by the calcium phosphate precipitation method described in Example 8. Two different transformations of the CHO cells are carried out: in one transformation, the DNA introduced into the cells represents a co-transformation of the vascular endothelial cell growth factor expression plasmid and pSV2:NEO in a 10:1 weight ratio; in the other transformation, the co-transformation is with the platelet-derived growth factor A-chain expression vector and pSV2:NEO in a 10:1 weight ratio. G418-resistant pools of transformants are selected from each transformation, and individual growth factor-producing clones are screened for high-level growth factor production by assays of the conditioned medium for mitogenic activity on endothelial cells (in the case of vascular endothelial cell growth factor-producing cells) or on mouse NIH 3T3 cells obtainable from the ATCC (#ATCC CRL 1658) (in the case of platelet-derived growth factor A-chain-producing cells), or by ELISA or radio-immune assays for the two growth factor chains developed by methods standard in the art.

In an alternative approach, a transformation is carried out in which three plasmids are co-precipitated with calcium phosphate onto the cells: the expression vector for vascular endothelial cell growth factor, the expression vector for platelet-derived growth factor A-chain, and 5 pSV2:NEO (in a weight ratio of 10:10:1). A G418-resistant pool of clones is selected from the transformation, and individual clones are then screened by ELISA or other antibody-based assays for the simultaneous secretion of both of the growth factor chains.

Purification of the vascular endothelial cell growth factor chains from conditioned medium is carried out as described in Example 9. Purification of the platelet-derived growth factor A-chains from conditioned medium is carried out following the protocols known in the art, e.g., the protocol of Heldin, et al., *Nature* (1986) 319:511-514. In this latter protocol, the conditioned medium containing the secreted growth factor is fractionated by adsorption to Sulphadex beads, followed by elution of the platelet-derived growth factor A-chain material with 1.5 M NaCl in 0.01 M phosphate buffer, pH 7.4. After ammonium sulphate precipitation to concentrate the eluted protein, the sample is resuspended in 1 M NaCl, 0.01 M phosphate buffer, pH 7.4, and dialyzed against this buffer. The sample is then fractionated over a Sephacryl S-200 column (elution with 1 M NaCl, 0.01 M phosphate buffer, pH 7.4), dialyzed against 1 M acetic acid, lyophilized, dissolved in 1 M acetic acid, and applied to a BioGel P-150 column (elution with 1 M acetic acid). After lyophilization of the fractions containing the A-chain material, the sample is re-dissolved in 1 M acetic acid and fractionated by reverse-phase HPLC (elution with a gradient of 0 to 50% propanol in 1 M acetic acid, 2 M guanidine-HCl).

A chimeric dimer containing one chain of vascular endothelial cell growth factor and one chain of platelet-derived growth factor A-chain is produced by mixing the two purified samples of these proteins prepared as described above. The mixture is then denatured and refolded as described in Example 9. Briefly, the mixture is first denatured and S-sulfonated by treatment with 20 mM Tris, pH 7.5, 1 mM EDTA, 6 M guanidine-HCl, 0.1 M Na₂SO₃, 0.01 mM Na₂S₄O₆ for 4 to 12 hours at room temperature. After fractionation over Sephacryl S-200 and purification by reverse-phase HPLC (see Example 9), the S-sulfonated chains are lyophilized and then dissolved at a final concentration of 0.1 to 0.5 mg/ml in 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 1 mM EDTA, 5 mM glutathione, 0.5 mM glutathione disulfide with enough urea to maintain solubility of the protein chains. Monomers are separated from dimers by chromatography on S-Sepharose in 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, using steps of increasing concentrations of NaCl in the Tris buffer for elution. The chimeric dimers are then separated from the homodimers by a combination of the steps used to purify the individual homodimers before the denaturation and refolding steps were carried out. Additionally, the chimeric molecule can be purified by passage over an anti-vascular endothelial cell growth factor antibody column, followed by passage over an anti-platelet-derived growth factor A-chain antibody column, following procedures known in the art.

Example 12

Retrieval of Full-length cDNA Encoding Human Vascular Endothelial Cell Growth Factor (hVEGF₁₂₁)

Cell Source of Vascular Endothelial Cell Growth Factor mRNA

Human U937 promonocytic leukemia cells produce high levels of mRNA encoding the vascular endothelial cell growth factor protein and are therefore a good source of mRNA for the preparation of cDNA encoding human vascular endothelial cell growth factor. U937 cells obtained from the American Type Culture Collection were maintained in RPMI-1640 (GIBCO) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), 1% L-glutamine and 100 U each of penicillin and streptomycin per ml. Cells were typically subcultivated every 3 to 4 days and were typically seeded at a density of 5 X 10⁵ cells per ml of medium.

Poly(A)⁺ RNA Isolation

For the isolation of U937 cell mRNA, the cells were grown to a density of about 5×10^6 cells per ml. Cells were pelleted from the medium by gentle centrifugation at 500 X g for 5 minutes. The cell pellet was washed once with 50 ml of ice-cold Dulbecco's Phosphate Buffered Saline (D-PBS) to remove residual media before isolating mRNA according to the methods of Chirgwin et al., Biochemistry (1979) 18:5294-5299. With this method, cells in the washed cell pellet were lysed by the direct addition of a lysis buffer (4.0 M guanidine thiocyanate, 0.1% Antifoam A, 25 mM sodium citrate, 0.5% N-lauroyl sarcosine, and 100 mM β -mercaptoethanol). After shearing DNA by passage through a syringe needle, RNA was directly precipitated by the addition of acetic acid and ethanol. The precipitated RNA was then resuspended in diethylpyrocarbonate (DEP)-treated deionized water (D-H₂O, typically about 400 μ l) and 2.6 ml of guanidine-HCl buffer (7.5 M guanidine hydrochloride, 25 mM sodium citrate, 5 mM dithiothreitol) was added and the RNA precipitated by the addition of acetic acid and ethanol. The precipitated RNA was resuspended again in DEP-H₂O and precipitated by the addition of sodium acetate and ethanol.

Total cellular RNA isolated by the guanidine-thiocyanate procedure (above) was further fractionated by oligo d(T)-cellulose chromatography to isolate poly(A)⁺ RNA following established procedures (Edmonds, M., et al., PNAS (1971) 68:1336; Aviv, H. and Leder, P., PNAS (1972) 69:1408).

Synthesis and amplification of vascular endothelial cell growth factor cDNA by reverse transcription and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) amplification.

To generate a hVEGF₁₂₁ expression cassette, oligonucleotide primers (Fig. 9) were used to prime a PCR from U937 poly(A)⁺ RNA (see above), yielding a vascular endothelial cell growth factor fragment containing BamHI cloning sites at each end and termination codons in all reading frames at the 3' end. First-strand cDNA synthesis was performed by annealing 1 μ g of the antisense oligonucleotide (primer 4738, Fig. 9) to 5 μ g of U937 poly(A)⁺ RNA followed by polymerization with AMV reverse transcriptase for 2 hours at 42°C using a cDNA synthesis kit (Boehringer-Mannheim). Following first-strand cDNA synthesis, the reactions were extracted with phenol and chloroform and precipitated with ethanol. One-tenth of the cDNA was then amplified by 30 rounds of PCR (Saiki, R.K. et al., Science (1988) 239:487-491) in a Perkin Elmer Cetus DNA Thermal Cycler using the anti-sense oligonucleotide 4738 and a sense strand oligonucleotide (primer 4741, Fig. 9) as primers. The products of the PCR reaction were then fractionated on a 5% polyacrylamide gel, and the band corresponding to the hVEGF₁₂₁ expression cassette was eluted, digested with BamHI, and ligated into M13mp18. The sequence was confirmed by the method of Sanger et al., J. Mol. Biol. (1980) 143:161-178.

Example 13Expression and Secretion of hVEGF₁₂₁ in CHO Cells

Following sequence confirmation, the BamHI fragment containing the vascular endothelial cell growth factor expression cassette was ligated into the BamHI cloning site of the mammalian expression plasmid pLEN in both the sense, and the anti-sense orientations (Fig. 10a), as well as into the pMTN vector in the sense orientation (Fig. 10b).

To construct the vector pLEN, pHg-SV(10), which is described above, was digested with SmaI, and BamHI linkers were ligated onto the SmaI site. The vector was then digested with BamHI (which removes the growth hormone gene) and religated, yielding pLEN. pLEN contains the SV40 enhancer, the MT-II promoter, and approximately 600 bp of the growth hormone 3' untranslated region containing the polyadenylation site. Construction of this vector and its use to express cDNA encoding human estrogen receptor is described in detail by Greene et al., Science (1986) 231:1150.

pMTN is a derivative of the pLEN plasmid (pMTNSV40 polyA Bam) which incorporates the neomycin resistance marker and the SV40 early promoter sequences from the plasmid pSV2neo. The neomycin resistance marker encodes aminoglycoside phosphotransferase, an enzyme which confers G418 resistance to cells carrying the marker. To construct pMTN, the neomycin resistance marker (neo^R in Fig. 10b) was released from pSV2neo by digestion of pSV2neo with BamHI and HindIII. The SV40 early promoter sequences from pSV2neo were released by digestion of pSV2neo with PvuII and HindIII, and were ligated to the HindIII-BamHI fragment carrying the neo^R marker. This cassette, containing the SV40 early promoter linked to the neo^R marker, was inserted into a HindIII site that lies between the SV40 enhancer and the pUC8 sequences of pLEN.

In constructing pLEN121 and pMTN121, the hVEGF₁₂₁ expression cassette was inserted into the BamHI site that lies between the human metallothionein promoter and the human growth hormone 3'-untranslated sequences in the plasmid vectors pLEN and pMTN.

Transfection of pLEN121 and pMTN121 expression plasmids into CHO cells.

CHO-K1 cells were obtained from the ATCC (Rockville, MD) and were maintained in a 1:1 mixture (vol/vol) of Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM)-21:Coon's F-12 supplemented with 10% FBS, and 1% L-glutamine and 100 U of penicillin and streptomycin per ml.

CHO-K1 cells were transfected with plasmid DNAs by the calcium phosphate precipitation method (Graham and van der Eb, *Virology* (1973) 52:456; and Wigler et al., *Cell* (1979) 16:777). The vascular endothelial cell growth factor-pLEN121 plasmid was co-transfected with two plasmids containing selectable markers; pUC9MT18, containing a complete metallothionein gene, and pSV2neo, which contained the primary selectable marker for neomycin resistance. The three plasmids were mixed at a weight ratio of 10:5:1, respectively. The pMTN plasmid contains a gene encoding aminoglycoside phosphotransferase (neomycin and G418 resistance marker); therefore the pMTN plasmid alone was transfected directly into CHO-K1 cells. 24 hours after transfection, cells expressing the G418 resistance marker carried by pSV2neo (in pLEN co-transfectants) or by pMTN were selected by growth in medium containing the neomycin analog Geneticin (G418) at a concentration of 600 µg/ml. Colonies of cells transfected with the pLEN constructs that survived G418 selection were sub-cultivated and subjected to further selection in medium containing 5 µM CdC12. Surviving colonies were expanded into pools of cells which were used for vascular endothelial cell growth factor protein expression and analysis.

Radiolabeling and pulse-chase analysis to confirm expression and secretion of hVEGF₁₂₁ from CHO cells.

Expression of hVEGF₁₂₁ and secretion into the culture medium by CHO-K1 cells transfected with pLEN121 was confirmed by metabolically labeling cellular proteins, then immunoprecipitating vascular endothelial cell growth factor from cell lysates or conditioned medium. Cell lysate or conditioned medium samples were prepared from transfected CHO cells following induction of the metallothionein promoter by culture of the cells in serum-free DMEM-21/Coon's F12 medium containing 50 µM ZnSO₄ (induction medium) for 24 hours before the start of the labeling interval. Prior to the addition of [³⁵S]-L-methionine, cells were washed and preincubated in DMEM-21/Coon's F12 medium lacking methionine for 30 min at 37°C. To begin the labeling interval, [³⁵S]-L-methionine was added to confluent cultures in 6 cm tissue culture dishes to a final concentration of 100 µCi/ml. For pulse-chase analysis, the "chase" interval was initiated after a 30 minute labeling interval by first removing the labeling medium, washing the cells once in serum-free DMEM-21/Coon's F12 containing L-methionine ("chase medium"), then re-feeding the cells with chase medium for the duration of the chase interval.

Detection of [³⁵S]-L-methionine-labeled hVEGF₁₂₁ by immunoprecipitation from cell lysates and conditioned medium.

All immunoprecipitation procedures were performed at 4°C unless otherwise noted, using cells grown to confluency in 6 cm dishes with 1 ml of medium. Medium was collected, made 1 mM in PMSF, then stored on ice during preparation of cell lysate samples. To prepare cell lysates, the cells were rinsed once with ice-cold phosphate buffered saline (PBS), then lysed in 0.4 ml of 100 mM Tris-hydrochloride (pH 8.0), 100 mM NaCl, 0.5% NP-40, 1 mM PMSF (lysis buffer). Conditioned medium and cell lysate samples were then clarified by centrifugation at 13,000 x g at 4°C for 30 min. Following clarification, antiserum to vascular endothelial cell growth factor or preimmune rabbit serum (GIBCO) was added to cell lysates or conditioned medium to a final concentration of 2% (vol/vol) and the samples were incubated overnight at 4°C prior to the addition of 50 µl of a slurry (100 mg/ml) of Protein A Sepharose CL-4B. After a 1 hour incubation at 4°C, the samples were successively washed four times with 1 ml volumes of 50 mM Tris-hydrochloride (pH 8.0), 0.5 M NaCl, 5 mM EDTA, 0.5% NP-40, 1 mg/ml ovalbumin (SIGMA); two times with 50 mM Tris-hydrochloride (pH 7.5), 150 mM NaCl, 5 mM EDTA, 0.5% NP-40; and once with 10 mM Tris-hydrochloride (pH 7.5). The samples were then suspended in 50 µl of sample buffer, boiled for 3 min, centrifuged at 13,000 x g for 1 min, and resolved on 12.5% SDS-polyacrylamide gels. To visualize radiolabeled proteins, following electrophoresis, gels were soaked in EN³HANCE (NEN) for 30 min, then soaked in d-H₂O for 30 min, dried, and subjected to fluorography.

Results of the immunoprecipitation and pulse-chase analysis of hVEGF₁₂₁ synthesized by pLEN121-transfected CHO cells demonstrated that hVEGF₁₂₁ synthesized by CHO cells is detected by immunoprecipitation in two size classes of approximately 15 kD and 20 kD after reduction of the protein with 2-mercaptoethanol. The size of unmodified reduced hVEGF₁₂₁ is predicted to be approximately 15 kD. When modified by glycosylation the monomer protein is expected to migrate with a molecular mass greater than 18 kD. Pulse-chase analysis indicates that both forms are secreted with a half-time of secretion of less than 60 min.

Determination of the extent of glycosylation and dimerization of vascular endothelial cell growth factor expressed by CHO cells.

To confirm that the 20 kD form of vascular endothelial cell growth factor is the result of N-linked glycosylation, pLEN121-transfected CHO cells were grown in serum-free medium for 4 hours in the absence or presence of the antibiotic tunicamycin (typically 1 to 10 µg/ml). Following growth in medium containing tunicamycin for 4 hours, the cells were starved of methionine for 30 min in DMEM-21/Coon's F12 lacking methionine but containing tunicamycin at the same level as present in the culture for the previous 4 hours. The transfected CHO cells were then labeled with [³⁵S]-L-methionine for 4 hours (as above) in labeling medium lacking or containing tunicamycin. Growth in the presence of tunicamycin blocked the synthesis of the 20 kD reduced form of hVEGF₁₂₁ indicating that the 20 kD monomer form of vascular endothelial cell growth factor is modified by N-linked glycosylation.

In order to determine whether glycosylated or non-glycosylated hVEGF₁₂₁ is capable of dimerization, immunoprecipitates were prepared from the medium conditioned by pLEN121-transfected CHO cells grown in the absence or presence of tunicamycin. Following immunoprecipitation, the samples were eluted from the Protein A Sepharose beads by boiling in SDS sample buffer either containing or lacking 100 mM β-mercaptoethanol. Samples prepared from cells grown in the absence of tunicamycin had the usual forms (15 kD and 20 kD) of vascular endothelial cell growth factor when fractionated by SDS-PAGE following reduction of disulfide bonds by boiling in the presence of β-mercaptoethanol, but when the samples were prepared in the absence of β-mercaptoethanol, 5 bands were detected on the SDS-polyacrylamide gel, including vascular endothelial cell growth factor species at approximately 15 kD, 20 kD, 28 kD, 32 kD, and 36 kD, indicating that hVEGF₁₂₁ is capable of forming disulfide-linked dimers. By analysis of samples prepared from cells grown in the presence of tunicamycin and fractionated with or without prior reduction in β-mercaptoethanol, it is apparent that the 32 kD and 36 kD forms of hVEGF₁₂₁ result from the formation of either a heterodimer in which one subunit is glycosylated and the other is not (32 kD form) or a homodimer in which both subunits are glycosylated (36 kD form). The 28 kD form results from the formation of a homodimer between two non-glycosylated hVEGF₁₂₁ subunits. Approximately 50% of the hVEGF₁₂₁ produced by CHO cells under the conditions described above is modified by N-linked glycosylation.

hVEGF₁₂₁ does not bind to heparin-Sepharose.

In order to determine the binding affinity of hVEGF₁₂₁ for heparin-Sepharose, a 1 ml (bed volume) column of heparin-Sepharose was prepared and equilibrated with 10 mM Tris-hydrochloride, pH 7.5, 50 mM NaCl (HS equilibration buffer) at a flow rate of 0.4 ml per min at 4°C. 200 ml of medium conditioned by pLEN121-transfected CHO cells was collected and concentrated 10-fold by precipitation with ammonium sulfate (80% w/v final concentration) and dialyzed extensively against HS equilibration buffer. 20 ml of the 10-fold concentrated and dialyzed medium mixed with 2 ml of medium prepared from cells grown in labeling medium (above) for 4 hours, and was then loaded onto the 1 ml heparin-Sepharose column. The unbound flow-through was collected and saved for SDS-PAGE analysis. The column was then washed with 7 column volumes of equilibration buffer, and fractions were collected as the column was washed successively with 14 column volumes of 10 mM Tris-hydrochloride pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl; and 6 column volumes of 10 mM Tris pH 7.5, 2 M NaCl. When the column fractions were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and fluorography, it became apparent that hVEGF₁₂₁ does not bind to heparin-Sepharose.

In a comparison of hVEGF₁₂₁, hVEGF₁₆₅, and hVPF₁₈₉, the 121 amino acid form of vascular endothelial cell growth factor was shown to be unique in its loss of heparin-binding ability.

Purification of hVEGF₁₂₁ by chromatography on zinc-Sepharose.

Zinc-Sepharose chromatography yields further purification of hVEGF₁₂₁. A 2 ml (bed volume) column of metal chelating Sepharose (PHARMACIA) was prepared and washed with deionized water before "charging" with 24 ml of ZnCl₂ solution (1 mg/ml in water). The column was washed again with deionized water and "activated" with 10 ml of 50 mM NaH₂PO₄ pH 7.0, 0.5 M NaCl, 10 mM imidazole. The column was then re-equilibrated with 50 mM NaH₂PO₄ pH 7.0, 0.5 M NaCl, 0.5 mM imidazole (Zn equilibration buffer). A 24 ml sample containing hVEGF₁₂₁ (the unbound material from heparin-Sepharose chromatography) in 10 mM Tris-hydrochloride pH 7.5, 50 mM NaCl was then loaded onto the zinc-Sepharose column. The column was then washed with Zn equilibration buffer, and fractions were eluted with Zn equilibration buffer supplemented with imidazole at 5 mM, 10 mM, 15 mM, 20 mM, 25 mM, 30 mM, 60 mM and 100 mM final concentrations. The results of this fractionation indicate that hVEGF₁₂₁ binds to zinc-Sepharose in Zn equilibration buffer and can be eluted from the column with Zn equilibration buffer supplemented with imidazole at a final concentration between 15 and 25 mM.

Secreted hVEGF₁₂₁ is correctly cleaved at the signal peptidase cleavage site.

hVEGF₁₂₁ purified by chromatography on zinc-Sepharose (above) was reduced in loading buffer containing 100 mM β -mercaptoethanol, fractionated by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, transferred to a polyvinylidene-difluoride (PVDF) membrane and subjected to N-terminal sequence analysis by successive Edman degradation in an automated gas-phase protein sequenator (Applied Biosystems). Analysis of both the 15 kD and 20 kD forms of vascular endothelial cell growth factor revealed that 90% of each form begins with the sequence APMAEGGGQNHHEV, whereas 10% of each band is of the des 1-3 form and begins AEGGGQNHHEV. These results confirm that the majority of both the 15 kD and 20 kD forms of hVEGF₁₂₁ expressed and secreted from transfected CHO cells contains the correct N-terminal amino acid sequence, corresponding to the N-terminus of the naturally isolated forms of vascular endothelial cell growth factor.

Purification of hVEGF₁₂₁ by chromatography on Mono-Q.

hVEGF₁₂₁ eluting from zinc-Sepharose in buffer 5 containing between 15 and 25 mM imidazole was desalted and loaded on a Mono-Q (PHARMACIA) column in equilibration buffer (10 mM Tris-hydrochloride pH 7.5). Elution of bound proteins with a gradient (30 column volumes) ranging from 0 mM NaCl to 300 mM NaCl in equilibration buffer resulted in elution of vascular endothelial cell growth factor between approximately 80 mM and 140 mM NaCl.

Claims

Claims for the following Contracting States : AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, FR, GB, IT, LI, LU, NL, SE

1. An isolated DNA sequence encoding bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor bVEGF₁₂₀ having the amino acid sequence 1 to 114 followed by 159 to 164 shown in Figure 6 wherein amino acid 114 is Lysine.
2. A DNA sequence according to claim 1 which comprises nucleotides 1 to 341 followed by nucleotides 474 to 492 as shown in Fig. 6.
3. An isolated DNA sequence encoding human vascular endothelial cell growth factor hVEGF₁₂₁ having the amino acid sequence 1 to 115 followed by 160 to 165 shown in Figure 7 wherein amino acid 115 is Lysine.
4. A DNA sequence according to claim 3 which comprises the sequence of nucleotides 1 to 344 followed by nucleotides 477 to 495 as shown in Fig. 7.
5. A replicable expression vector comprising a DNA sequence encoding bovine vascular endothelial cell growth factor bVEGF₁₂₀ having the amino acid sequence 1 to 114 followed by 159 to 164 shown in Figure 6 wherein amino acid 114 is Lysine operably linked to a regulatory sequence capable of directing expression of the DNA sequence in a host cell.
6. An expression vector according to claim 5 in which the DNA coding sequence comprises the sequence of nucleotides 1 to 341 followed by nucleotides 474 to 492 as shown in Fig. 6.
7. A replicable expression vector comprising a DNA sequence encoding human vascular endothelial cell growth factor hVEGF₁₂₁ having the amino acid sequence 1 to 115 followed by 160 to 165 shown in Figure 7 wherein amino acid 115 is Lysine operably linked to a regulatory sequence capable of directing expression of the DNA sequence in a host cell.
8. An expression vector according to claim 7 in which the DNA coding sequence comprises the sequence of nucleotides 1 to 344 followed by nucleotides 477 to 495 as shown in fig. 7.
9. A host cell transformed with an expression vector as claimed in any one of claims 4 to 8.
10. A transformed host cell according to claim 9 in which the host cell is E. coli.
11. A transformed host cell according to claim 9 in which the host cell is a eukaryotic cell.

12. A transformed host cell according to claim 11 in which the host cell is a CHO cell.
13. A method of producing vascular endothelial cell growth factor bVEGF₁₂₀ or hVEGF₁₂₁ as defined in claims 1 and 3 which method comprises:
 - (a) culturing cells transformed with an expression vector containing a DNA sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide chain of vascular endothelial cell growth factor bVEGF₁₂₀ or hVEGF₁₂₁ under conditions in which the polypeptide is expressed;
 - (b) recovering the expressed polypeptide; and
 - (c) forming a disulfide-linked dimer of the polypeptide chains.
14. A method according to claim 13 in which the host cell is a mammalian host cell and the resulting vascular endothelial cell growth factor is glycosylated.
15. A method according to claim 13 or 14 in which said cells are mammalian cells and said DNA sequence encodes the predicted amino acid sequence, encoded by exons I-V and VIII in Fig. 8.
16. A method according to claim 15 in which said expression results in mature hVEGF₁₂₁ being secreted into the culture medium.
17. Isolated bVEGF₁₂₀ having the amino acid sequence 1 to 114 followed by 159 to 164 shown in Figure 6 wherein amino acid 114 is Lysine.
18. Isolated hVEGF₁₂₁ having the amino acid sequence 1 to 115 followed by 160 to 165 shown in Figure 7 wherein amino acid 115 is Lysine.
19. A protein according to claim 17 or 18 which contains N-linked glycosylation at the Asn residue at position 75 of hVEGF₁₂₁ or at the corresponding position 74 of bVEGF₁₂₀.
20. A protein according to claim 17, 18 or 19 about 50% of which is glycosylated.
21. A protein according to claim 17 or 18 which is a homodimer in which both subunits are unglycosylated.
22. A protein according to claim 17 or 18 which is a homodimer in which both subunits are glycosylated.
23. A protein according to claim 17 or 18 which is a heterodimer in which one of the subunits is glycosylated and the other is unglycosylated.
24. A chimeric growth factor comprising first and second polypeptide chains, said chains being disulphide linked, wherein the first polypeptide chain comprises at least a portion of the amino acid sequence of either the A-chain subunit or the B-chain subunit of platelet derived growth factor and the second polypeptide chain is bVEGF₁₂₀ or hVEGF₁₂₁ as defined in claim 1 or 3.
25. A protein useful in inhibiting angiogenesis comprising a heterodimer of two different subunits, one of which is hVEGF₁₂₁ having the amino acid sequence 1 to 115 followed by 160 to 165 shown in Figure 7 wherein amino acid 115 is Lysine and the other of which is hVEGF₁₆₅, having the amino acid sequence 1 to 165 shown in Figure 7, or hVPF₁₈₉ (human vascular permeability factor).
26. Use of a protein as claimed in claim 25 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of an individual by inhibiting angiogenesis.
27. A pharmaceutical composition comprising, as active ingredient, a protein as defined in any one of claims 17 to 25 and a pharmaceutical carrier.
28. A neutralising antibody specific to bVEGF₁₂₀ or hVEGF₁₂₁ as defined in claim 1 or 3.
29. A pharmaceutical composition comprising, as active ingredient, an antibody as claimed in claim 28, and a pharmaceutical carrier.

30. Use of an antibody as claimed in claim 28 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of an individual by inhibiting angiogenesis.

5 31. An analog of hVEGF₁₂₁ as defined in claim 3 in which the cysteine residue at position 116 has been substituted by a different amino acid residue.

Claims for the following Contracting State : ES

10 1. A method of producing vascular endothelial cell growth factor bVEGF₁₂₀ having the amino acid sequence 1 to 114 followed by 159 to 164 shown in Figure 6 wherein amino acid 114 is Lysine, which method comprises:

15 (a) culturing cells transformed with an expression vector containing a DNA sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide chain of vascular endothelial cell growth factor bVEGF₁₂₀, under conditions in which the polypeptide is expressed;
(b) recovering the expressed polypeptide; and
(c) forming a disulfide-linked dimer of the polypeptide chains.

20 2. A method of producing vascular endothelial cell growth factor hVEGF₁₂₁ having the amino acid sequence 1 to 115 followed by 160 to 165 shown in Figure 7 wherein amino acid 115 is Lysine, which method comprises:

25 (a) culturing cells transformed with an expression vector containing a DNA sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide chain of vascular endothelial cell growth factor hVEGF₁₂₁, under conditions in which the polypeptide is expressed;
(b) recovering the expressed polypeptide; and
(c) forming a disulfide-linked dimer of the polypeptide chains.

30 3. A method according to claim 1 or 2 in which the host cells are mammalian host cells and the resulting vascular endothelial cell growth factor is glycosylated.

4. A method according to any one of the preceding claims in which said host cells are mammalian cells and said DNA sequence encodes the predicted amino acid sequence encoded by exons I-V and VIII in Figure 8.

35 5. A method according to claim 4 in which said expression results in mature hVEGF₁₂₁ being secreted into the culture medium.

6. A method according to claim 1 or 2 in which the hVEGF₁₂₁ contains N-linked glycosylation at the Asn residue at position 75 or the bVEGF₁₂₀ contains N-linked glycosylation at the corresponding Asn residue at position 74.

40 7. A method according to claim 1,2 or 6 in which about 50% of the hVEGF₁₂₁ or bVEGF₁₂₀ is glycosylated.

8. A method according to claim 1 or 2 in which the hVEGF₁₂₁ or bVEGF₁₂₀ is a homodimer in which both subunits are unglycosylated.

45 9. A method according to claim 1 or 2 in which the hVEGF₁₂₁ or bVEGF₁₂₀ is a homodimer in which both subunits are glycosylated.

10. A method according to claim 1 or 2 in which the hVEGF₁₂₁ or bVEGF₁₂₀ is a heterodimer in which one of the subunits is glycosylated and the other is unglycosylated.

50 11. A method according to claim 2 in which the expressed polypeptide is an analog of hVEGF₁₂₁ in which the cysteine residue at position 116 has been substituted by a different amino acid residue.

55 12. A method for the preparation of a chimeric growth factor comprising first and second polypeptide chains, said chains being disulphide linked, wherein the first polypeptide chain comprises at least a portion of the amino acid sequence of either the A-chain subunit or the B-chain subunit of platelet derived growth factor and the second polypeptide chain is bVEGF₁₂₀ or hVEGF₁₂₁, which method comprises:

- (a) inserting a DNA sequence encoding each desired chain into a suitable expression vector;
- (b) transforming a single host cell or two separate host cells with the expression vectors;
- (c) expressing and recovering the polypeptide chains; and
- (d) forming a disulfide-linked heterodimer of the polypeptide chains.

5

13. A method for the preparation of a protein useful in inhibiting angiogenesis comprising a heterodimer of two different subunits, one of which is hVEGF₁₂₁ and the other of which is hVEGF₁₆₅, having the amino acid sequence 1 to 165 shown in Figure 7, or hVPF₁₈₉ (human vascular permeability factor), which method comprises expressing hVEGF₁₂₁ and hVEGF₁₆₅ or hVEGF₁₈₉ in separate hosts or in the same host and carrying out dimerisation.

10

14. A method for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition comprising, as active ingredient, a protein as defined in any one of the preceding claims, by mixing said protein with a pharmaceutical carrier.

15. A method for the preparation of a replicable expression vector which comprises a DNA sequence encoding vascular endothelial growth factor bVEGF₁₂₀, having the amino acid sequence 1 to 114 followed by 159 to 164 shown in Figure 6 wherein amino acid 114 is lysine, or hVEGF₁₂₁, having the amino acid sequence 1 to 115 followed by 160 to 165 shown in Figure 7 wherein amino acid 115 is lysine, which method comprises operably linking said sequence to a regulatory sequence in a vector capable of directing expression of the DNA sequence in a host cell.

20. 16. A method according to claim 15 wherein the DNA coding sequence comprises the sequence of nucleotides 1 to 341 followed by nucleotides 474 to 492 as shown in Figure 6.

17. A method according to claim 15 wherein the DNA coding sequence comprises the sequence of nucleotides 1 to 344 followed by nucleotides 477 to 495 as shown in Figure 7.

25

18. A method for the preparation of a transformed host cell, which method comprises transforming a host cell with a vector as defined in any one of claims 15 to 17.

19. A method according to claim 18 in which the host cell is E. coli.

30

20. A method according to claim 18 in which the host cell is a eukaryotic cell.

21. A method according to claim 20 in which the host cell is a CHO cell.

35

Patentansprüche

Patentansprüche für folgende Vertragsstaaten : AT, BE, CH, LI, DE, DK, FR, GB, IT, LU, NL, SE

40

1. Isolierte DNA-Sequenz, die für Rinder-vaskulären endothelialen Zellwachstumsfaktor bVEGF₁₂₀ codiert, mit der Aminosäuresequenz 1 bis 114, gefolgt von 159 bis 164, wie in Figur 6 dargestellt, und worin die Aminosäure 114 Lysin ist.

2. DNA-Sequenz nach Anspruch 1, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß sie die Nukleotide 1 bis 341, gefolgt von den Nukleotiden 474 bis 492, wie in Figur 6 dargestellt, umfaßt.

3. Isolierte DNA-Sequenz, die für menschlichen endothelialen Zellwachstumsfaktor hVEGF₁₂₁ codiert, mit der Aminosäuresequenz 1 bis 115, gefolgt von 160 bis 165, wie in Figur 7 dargestellt, und worin die Aminosäure 115 Lysin ist.

50

4. DNA-Sequenz nach Anspruch 3, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß sie die Sequenz der Nukleotide 1 bis 344, gefolgt von den Nukleotiden 477 bis 495, wie in Figur 7 dargestellt, umfaßt.

5. Replizierbarer Expressionsvektor, umfassend eine DNA-Sequenz, die für Rinder-vaskulären endothelialen Zellwachstumsfaktor bVEGF₁₂₀ codiert, mit der Aminosäuresequenz 1 bis 114, gefolgt von 159 bis 164, wie in Figur 6 dargestellt, worin die Aminosäure 114 Lysin ist, das operabel an eine regulatorische Sequenz gebunden ist, die dazu fähig ist, die Expression der DNA-Sequenz in einer Wirtszelle zu lenken.

55

6. Expressionsvektor nach Anspruch 5, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die DNA-codierende Sequenz die Sequenz der Nukleotiden 1 bis 341, gefolgt von den Nukleotiden 474 bis 492, wie in Figur 6 dargestellt, umfaßt.
7. Replizierbarer Expressionsvektor umfassend eine DNA-Sequenz, die für menschlichen vaskulären endothelialen Zellwachstumsfaktor hVEGF₁₂₁ codiert, mit der Aminosäuresequenz 1 bis 115, gefolgt von 160 bis 165, wie in Figur 7 dargestellt, worin die Aminosäure 115 Lysin ist, das operabel an eine regulatorische Sequenz gebunden ist, die dazu fähig ist, die Expression der DNA-Sequenz in einer Wirtszelle zu lenken.
8. Expressionsvektor nach Anspruch 7, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die DNA-codierende Sequenz die Sequenz der Nukleotide 1 bis 344, gefolgt von den Nukleotiden 477 bis 495, wie in Figur 7 darstellt, umfaßt.
9. Wirtszelle, transformiert mit einem Expressionsvektor, wie er in einem der Ansprüche 4 bis 8 beansprucht ist.
10. Transformierte Wirtszelle nach Anspruch 9, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Wirtszelle E. coli ist.
11. Transformierte Wirtszelle nach Anspruch 9, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Wirtszelle eine eukaryotische Zelle ist.
12. Transformierte Wirtszelle nach Anspruch 11, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Wirtszelle eine CHO-Zelle ist.
13. Verfahren zur Herstellung eines vaskulären endothelialen Zellwachstumsfaktors bVEGF₁₂₀ oder hVEGF₁₂₁, wie in einem der Ansprüche 1 und 3 definiert, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Verfahren umfaßt:
 - (a) Kultivieren von mit einem Expressionsvektor, der eine DNA-Sequenz enthält, die für die Aminosäuresequenz einer Polypeptidkette des vaskulären endothelialen Zellwachstumsfaktors bVEGF₁₂₀ oder hVEGF₁₂₁ codiert, transformierten Zellen unter Bedingungen, unter denen das Polypeptid exprimiert wird;
 - (b) Gewinnen des exprimierten Polypeptids; und
 - (c) Ausbilden eines Disulfid-verbundenen Dimers der Polypeptidketten.
14. Verfahren nach Anspruch 13, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Wirtszelle eine Säugetier-Wirtszelle ist und der resultierende vaskuläre endotheliale Zellwachstumsfaktor glycosyliert ist.
15. Verfahren nach Anspruch 13 oder 14, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Zellen Säugetierzellen sind und die DNA-Sequenz die vorgesehene Aminosäuresequenz, codiert durch die Exons I-V und VIII in Figur 8, kodiert.
16. Verfahren nach Anspruch 15, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Expression einen reifen hVEGF₁₂₁ ergibt, der in das Kulturmedium ausgeschieden wird.
17. Isolierter bVEGF₁₂₀ mit der Aminosäuresequenz 1 bis 114, gefolgt von 159 bis 164, wie in Figur 6 dargestellt, worin die Aminosäure 114 Lysin ist.
18. Isolierter hVEGF₁₂₁ mit der Aminosäuresequenz 1 bis 115, gefolgt von 160 bis 165, wie in Figur 7 dargestellt, worin die Aminosäure 115 Lysin ist.
19. Protein nach Anspruch 17 oder 18, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß es am Asn-Rest in Position 75 des hVEGF₁₂₁ oder an der entsprechenden Position 74 des bVEGF₁₂₀ eine N-gebundene Glycosylierung enthält.
20. Protein nach Anspruch 17, 18 oder 19, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß ca. 50 % davon glycosyliert sind.
21. Protein nach Anspruch 17 oder 18, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß es ein Homodimer ist, in dem beide Untereinheiten unglycosyliert sind.
22. Protein nach Anspruch 17 oder 18, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß es ein Homodimer ist, in dem beide Untereinheiten glycosyliert sind.
23. Protein nach Anspruch 17 oder 18, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß es ein Heterodimer ist, in dem eine der Untereinheiten glycosyliert und die andere unglycosyliert ist.

24. Chimärer Wachstumsfaktor umfassend erste und zweite Polypeptidketten, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Ketten Disulfid-verbunden sind, und worin die erste Polypeptidkette mindestens einen Teil der Aminosäuresequenz von entweder der A-Ketten-Untereinheit oder der B-Ketten-Untereinheit von von Plättchen abgeleitetem Wachstumsfaktor umfaßt und die zweite Polypeptidkette bVEGF₁₂₀ oder hVEGF₁₂₁, wie in einem der Ansprüche 1 oder 3 definiert, ist.
25. Protein zur Inhibierung von Angiogenese, umfassend ein Heterodimer von zwei verschiedenen Untereinheiten, von denen eine hVEGF₁₂₁ mit der Aminosäuresequenz 1 bis 115, gefolgt von 160 bis 165, wie in Figur 7 dargestellt, und worin die Aminosäure 115 Lysin ist, ist, und die andere hVEGF₁₆₅ mit der Aminosäuresequenz 1 bis 165, dargestellt in Figur 7, oder hVPF₁₈₉ (menschlicher vaskulärer Permeabilitätsfaktor).
26. Verwendung eines Proteins nach Anspruch 25 zur Herstellung eines Arzneimittels zur Verwendung zur Behandlung eines Individuums durch Inhibierung von Angiogenese.
27. Pharmazeutische Zusammensetzung, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß sie als Wirkstoff ein nach einem der Ansprüche 17 bis 25 definiertes Protein und einen pharmazeutischen Träger umfaßt.
28. Neutralisierender Antikörper, spezifisch auf bVEGF₁₂₀ oder hVEGF₁₂₁, wie in den Ansprüchen 1 oder 3 definiert.
29. Pharmazeutische Zusammensetzung, dadurch gekennzeichnet, die sie als Wirkstoff einen Antikörper nach Anspruch 28 und einen pharmazeutischen Träger umfaßt.
30. Verwendung eines Antikörpers nach Anspruch 28 zur Herstellung eines Arzneimittels zur Verwendung bei der Behandlung eines Individuums durch Inhibierung von Angiogenese.
31. Analoges von hVEGF₁₂₁ gemäß Anspruch 3, worin der Cysteinrest in Position 116 durch einen davon verschiedenen Aminosäurerest ersetzt ist.

Patentansprüche für folgenden Vertragsstaat : ES

1. Verfahren zur Herstellung eines vaskulären endothelialen Zellwachstumsfaktors bVEGF₁₂₀ mit der Aminosäuresequenz 1 bis 114, gefolgt von 159 bis 164, wie in Figur 6 dargestellt, und worin die Aminosäure 114 Lysin ist, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Verfahren umfaßt:
 - (a) Kultivieren von mit einem Expressionsvektor, der eine DNA-Sequenz enthält, die für die Aminosäuresequenz einer Polypeptidkette des vaskulären endothelialen Zellwachstumsfaktors bVEGF₁₂₀ codiert, transformierten Zellen unter Bedingungen, unter denen das Polypeptid exprimiert wird;
 - (b) Gewinnen des exprimierten Polypeptids; und
 - (c) Ausbilden eines Disulfid-verbundenen Dimers der Polypeptidketten.
2. Verfahren zur Herstellung eines vaskulären endothelialen Zellwachstumsfaktors hVEGF₁₂₁ mit der Aminosäuresequenz 1 bis 115, gefolgt von 160 bis 165, wie in Figur 7 dargestellt, und worin die Aminosäure 115 Lysin ist, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Verfahren umfaßt:
 - (a) Kultivieren von mit einem Expressionsvektor, der eine DNA-Sequenz enthält, die für die Aminosäuresequenz einer Polypeptidkette des vaskulären endothelialen Zellwachstumsfaktors hVEGF₁₂₁ codiert, transformierten Zellen unter Bedingungen, unter denen das Polypeptid exprimiert wird;
 - (b) Gewinnen des exprimierten Polypeptids; und
 - (c) Ausbilden eines Disulfid-verbundenen Dimers der Polypeptidketten.
3. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Wirtszellen Säugetier-Wirtszellen sind und der resultierende vaskuläre endotheliale Zellwachstumsfaktor glycosyliert ist.
4. Verfahren nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Wirtszellen Säugetierzellen sind und die DNA-Sequenz die vorgesehene Aminosäuresequenz, codiert durch die Exons I-V und VIII in Figur 8, codiert.

EP 0 484 401 B1

5. Verfahren nach Anspruch 4, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Expression einen reifen hVEGF₁₂₁ ergibt, der in das Kulturmedium ausgeschieden wird.
6. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der hVEGF₁₂₁ am Asn-Rest in Position 75 eine N-gebundene Glycosylierung enthält, oder der bVEGF₁₂₀ an am entsprechenden Asn-Rest in Position 74 eine N-gebundene Glycosylierung enthält.
7. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, 2 oder 6, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß ca. 50 % des hVEGF₁₂₁ oder bVEGF₁₂₀ glycosyliert sind.
8. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der hVEGF₁₂₁ oder bVEGF₁₂₀ ein Homodimer ist, in dem beide Untereinheiten unglycosyliert sind.
9. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der hVEGF₁₂₁ oder bVEGF₁₂₀ ein Homodimer ist, in dem beide Untereinheiten glycosyliert sind.
10. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der hVEGF₁₂₁ oder bVEGF₁₂₀ ein Heterodimer ist, in dem eine der Untereinheiten glycosyliert und die andere unglycosyliert ist.
11. Verfahren nach Anspruch 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das exprimierte Polypeptid ein Analog von hVEGF₁₂₁ ist, in dem der Cysteinrest in Position 116 durch einen davon verschiedenen Aminosäurerest ersetzt ist.
12. Verfahren zur Herstellung eines chimären Wachstumsfaktors umfassend erste und zweite Polypeptidketten, wobei die Ketten Disulfid-verbunden sind, und worin die erste Polypeptidkette mindestens einen Teil der Aminosäuresequenz von entweder der A-Ketten-Untereinheit oder der B-Ketten-Untereinheit von von Plättchen abgeleitetem Wachstumsfaktor umfaßt und die zweite Polypeptidkette bVEGF₁₂₀ oder hVEGF₁₂₁ ist, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Verfahren umfaßt:
 - (a) Insertion einer DNA-Sequenz, die für jede gewünschte Kette codiert, in einen geeigneten Expressionsvektor;
 - (b) Transformieren einer einzelnen Wirtszelle oder von zwei getrennten Wirtszellen mit den Expressionsvektoren;
 - (c) Exprimieren und Gewinnen der Polypeptidketten; und
 - (d) Ausbilden eines Disulfid-gebundenen Heterodimers der Polypeptidketten.
13. Verfahren zur Herstellung eines Proteins zur Inhibierung von Angiogenese, umfassend ein Heterodimer von zwei verschiedenen Untereinheiten, von denen eine hVEGF₁₂₁ ist und die andere hVEGF₁₆₅, mit der Aminosäuresequenz 1 bis 165, dargestellt in Figur 7, oder hVPF₁₈₉ (menschlicher vaskulärer Permeabilitätsfaktor), dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Verfahren umfaßt das Exprimieren von hVEGF₁₂₁ und hVEGF₁₆₅ oder hVEGF₁₈₉ in getrennten Wirten oder im gleichen Wirt, und Durchführung einer Dimerisation.
14. Verfahren zur Herstellung einer pharmazeutischen Zusammensetzung, die als Wirkstoff ein nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche definiertes Protein umfaßt, durch Mischen dieses Proteines mit einem pharmazeutischen Träger.
15. Verfahren zur Herstellung eines replizierbaren Expressionsvektors, umfassend eine DNA-Sequenz, die für vaskulären endothelialen Zellwachstumsfaktor bVEGF₁₂₀, mit der Aminosäuresequenz 1 bis 114, gefolgt von 159 bis 164, wie in Figur 6 dargestellt, und worin die Aminosäure 114 Lysin ist, codiert, oder für hVEGF₁₂₁ mit der Aminosäuresequenz 1 bis 115, gefolgt von 160 bis 165, wie in Figur 7 dargestellt, und worin die Aminosäure 115 Lysin ist, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Verfahren umfaßt die operable Bindung dieser Sequenz an eine regulatorische Sequenz in einem Vektor, der dazu fähig ist, die Expression der DNA-Sequenz in einer Wirtszelle zu lenken.
16. Verfahren nach Anspruch 15, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die DNA-codierende Sequenz die Sequenz der Nukleotide 1 bis 341, gefolgt von Nukleotiden 474 bis 492, wie in Figur 6 dargestellt, umfaßt.
17. Verfahren nach Anspruch 15, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die DNA-codierende Sequenz die Sequenz der Nukleotide 1 bis 344, gefolgt von Nukleotiden 477 bis 495, wie in Figur 7 dargestellt, umfaßt.

18. Verfahren zur Herstellung einer transformierten Wirtszelle, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Verfahren die Transformation einer Wirtszelle mit einem Vektor, wie in einem der Ansprüche 15 bis 17 definiert, umfaßt.

19. Verfahren nach Anspruch 18, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Wirtszelle *E. coli* ist.

20. Verfahren nach Anspruch 18, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Wirtszelle eine eukaryotische Zelle ist.

21. Verfahren nach Anspruch 20, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Wirtszelle eine CHO-Zelle ist.

Revendications

Revendications pour les Etats contractants suivants : AT, BE, CH, LI, DE, DK, FR, GB, IT, LU, NL, SE

1. Séquence d'ADN isolée codant le facteur de croissance de cellules endothéliales vasculaires bovin bVEGF₁₂₀, ayant la séquence d'acides aminés 1 à 114 suivis par 159 à 164 représentés à la figure 6, dans laquelle l'acide aminé 114 est la lysine.
2. Séquence d'ADN selon la revendication 1, qui comprend les nucléotides 1 à 341 suivis par les nucléotides 474 à 492 représentés à la figure 6.
3. Séquence d'ADN isolée codant le facteur de croissance de cellules endothéliales vasculaires humain hVEGF₁₂₁, ayant la séquence d'acides aminés 1 à 115 suivis par 160 à 165 représentés à la figure 7, dans laquelle l'acide aminé 115 est la lysine.
4. Séquence d'ADN selon la revendication 3, qui comprend la séquence de nucléotides 1 à 344 suivis par les nucléotides 477 à 495 représentés à la figure 7.
5. Vecteur d'expression répliquable, comprenant une séquence d'ADN codant le facteur de croissance de cellules endothéliales vasculaires bovin bVEGF₁₂₀, ayant la séquence d'acides aminés 1 à 114 suivis par 159 à 164 représentés à la figure 6, dans laquelle l'acide aminé 114 est la lysine liée de manière fonctionnelle à une séquence régulatrice capable de diriger l'expression de la séquence d'ADN dans une cellule hôte.
6. Vecteur d'expression selon la revendication 5, dans lequel la séquence codant l'ADN comprend la séquence de nucléotides 1 à 341 suivis des nucléotides 474 à 492 comme représentés à la figure 6.
7. Vecteur d'expression répliquable, comprenant une séquence d'ADN codant le facteur de croissance de cellules endothéliales vasculaires humain hVEGF₁₂₁, ayant la séquence d'acides aminés 1 à 115 suivis par 160 à 165 représentés à la figure 7, dans laquelle l'acide aminé 115 est la lysine liée de manière fonctionnelle à une séquence régulatrice capable de diriger l'expression de la séquence d'ADN dans une cellule hôte.
8. Vecteur d'expression selon la revendication 7, dans lequel la séquence codant l'ADN comprend la séquence de nucléotides 1 à 344 suivis par les nucléotides 477 à 495 comme représentés à la figure 7.
9. Cellule hôte transformée par un vecteur d'expression tel que revendiqué dans l'une quelconque des revendications 4 à 8.
10. Cellule hôte transformée selon la revendication 9, dans laquelle la cellule hôte est *E. coli*.
11. Cellule hôte transformée selon la revendication 9, dans laquelle la cellule hôte est une cellule eucaryote.
12. Cellule hôte transformée selon la revendication 11, dans laquelle la cellule hôte est une cellule CHO.
13. Procédé de production de facteur de croissance de cellules endothéliales vasculaires bVEGF₁₂₀ ou hVEGF₁₂₁ tels que définis dans les revendications 1 et 3, ledit procédé comprenant :

(a) la culture de cellules transformées par un vecteur d'expression contenant une séquence d'ADN codant la

séquence d'acides aminés d'une chaîne polypeptidique de facteur de croissance de cellules endothéliales vasculaires bVEGF₁₂₀ ou hVEGF₁₂₁, dans des conditions dans lesquelles le polypeptidique est exprimé;
 (b) la récupération du polypeptidique exprimé; et
 (c) la formation d'un dimère à liaison disulfure des chaînes polypeptidiques.

5

14. Procédé selon la revendication 13, dans lequel la cellule hôte est une cellule hôte de mammifère et le facteur de croissance de cellules endothéliales vasculaires résultant est glycosylé.

10

15. Procédé selon la revendication 13 ou 14, dans lequel lesdites cellules sont des cellules de mammifère et ladite séquence d'ADN code la séquence d'acides aminés prédite, codée par les exons I-V et VIII de la figure 8.

16. Procédé selon la revendication 15, dans lequel ladite expression entraîne la sécrétion de hVEGF₁₂₁ mature dans le milieu de culture.

15

17. bVEGF₁₂₀ isolé ayant la séquence d'acides aminés 1 à 114 suivis par 159 à 164 représentés à la figure 6, dans laquelle l'acide aminé 114 est la lysine.

18. hVEGF₁₂₁ isolé ayant la séquence d'acides aminés 1 à 115 suivis par 160 à 165 représentés à la figure 7, dans laquelle l'acide aminé 115 est la lysine.

20

19. Protéine selon la revendication 17 ou 18, contenant une glycosylation liée à l'azote au résidu Asn en position 75 de hVEGF₁₂₁ ou en position 74 correspondante de bVEGF₁₂₀.

20. Protéine selon la revendication 17, 18 ou 19 dont environ 50% est glycosylé.

25

21. Protéine selon la revendication 17 ou 18, qui est un homodimère dans lequel les deux sous-unités ne sont pas glycosylées.

22. Protéine selon la revendication 17 ou 18, qui est un homodimère dans lequel les deux sous-unités sont glycosylées.

30

23. Protéine selon la revendication 17 ou 18, qui est un hétérodimère dans lequel l'une des sous-unités est glycosylée et l'autre n'est pas glycosylée.

35

24. Facteur de croissance chimère comprenant une première et une seconde chaînes polypeptidiques, lesdites chaînes étant liées par liaison disulfure, dans lequel la première chaîne polypeptidique comprend au moins une partie de la séquence d'acides aminés soit de la sous-unité chaîne A soit de la sous-unité chaîne B de facteur de croissance dérivé de plaquettes sanguines, et la seconde chaîne polypeptidique est bVEGF₁₂₀ ou hVEGF₁₂₁, tels que définis dans la revendication 1 ou 3.

40

25. Protéine servant à inhiber l'angiogénèse, comprenant un hétérodimère composé de deux sous-unités différentes, dont l'une est hVEGF₁₂₁ ayant la séquence d'acides aminés 1 à 115 suivis par 160 à 165 représentés à la figure 7, dans laquelle l'acide aminé 115 est la lysine, et dont l'autre est hVEGF₁₆₅, ayant la séquence d'acides aminés 1 à 165 représentés à la figure 7, ou hVPF₁₈₉ (facteur de perméabilité vasculaire humain).

45

26. Utilisation d'une protéine telle que revendiquée dans la revendication 25 dans la fabrication d'un médicament destiné à être utilisé dans le traitement d'un individu par inhibition de l'angiogénèse.

27. Composition pharmaceutique comprenant, en tant qu'ingrédient actif, une protéine telle que définie dans l'une quelconque des revendications 17 à 25, et un support pharmaceutique.

50

28. Anticorps neutralisant spécifique de bVEGF₁₂₀ ou de hVEGF₁₂₁ tels que définis dans la revendication 1 ou 3.

29. Composition pharmaceutique comprenant, en tant qu'ingrédient actif, un anticorps tel que revendiqué dans la revendication 28, et un support pharmaceutique.

55

30. Utilisation d'un anticorps tel que revendiqué dans la revendication 28 dans la fabrication d'un médicament destiné à être utilisé dans le traitement d'un individu par inhibition de l'angiogénèse.

31. Analogue de hVEGF₁₂₁ tel que défini dans la revendication 3, dans lequel le résidu cystéine en position 116 a été remplacé par un résidu acide aminé différent.

5 **Revendications pour l'Etat contractant suivant : ES**

1. Procédé de production de facteur de croissance de cellules endothéliales vasculaires bVEGF₁₂₀, ayant la séquence d'acides aminés 1 à 114 suivis par 159 à 164 représentés à la figure 6, dans laquelle l'acide aminé 114 est la lysine, ledit procédé comprenant :
10 (a) la culture de cellules transformées par un vecteur d'expression contenant une séquence d'ADN codant la séquence d'acides aminés d'une chaîne polypeptidique de facteur de croissance de cellules endothéliales vasculaires bVEGF₁₂₀, dans des conditions dans lesquelles le polypeptidique est exprimé;
 (b) la récupération du polypeptidique exprimé; et
15 (c) la formation d'un dimère à liaison disulfure des chaînes polypeptidiques.
2. Procédé de production de facteur de croissance de cellules endothéliales vasculaires hVEGF₁₂₁, ayant la séquence d'acides aminés 1 à 115 suivis par 160 à 165 représentés à la figure 7, dans laquelle l'acide aminé 115 est la lysine, ledit procédé comprenant :
20 (a) la culture de cellules transformées par un vecteur d'expression contenant une séquence d'ADN codant la séquence d'acides aminés d'une chaîne polypeptidique de facteur de croissance de cellules endothéliales vasculaires hVEGF₁₂₁, dans des conditions dans lesquelles le polypeptidique est exprimé;
 (b) la récupération du polypeptidique exprimé; et
25 (c) la formation d'un dimère à liaison disulfure des chaînes polypeptidiques.
3. Procédé selon la revendication 1 ou 2, dans lequel les cellules hôtes sont des cellules hôtes de mammifère et le facteur de croissance de cellules endothéliales vasculaires résultant est glycosylé.
- 30 4. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel lesdites cellules hôtes sont des cellules de mammifère et ladite séquence d'ADN code la séquence d'acides aminés prédite codée par les exons I-V et VIII de la figure 8.
5. Procédé selon la revendication 4, dans lequel ladite expression entraîne la sécrétion de hVEGF₁₂₁ mature dans le milieu de culture.
35
6. Procédé selon la revendication 1 ou 2, dans lequel le hVEGF₁₂₁ contient une glycosylation liée à l'azote au résidu Asn en position 75 ou le bVEGF₁₂₀ contient une glycosylation liée à l'azote au résidu Asn correspondant en position 74.
40
7. Procédé selon la revendication 1, 2 ou 6, dans lequel environ 50% du hVEGF₁₂₁ ou du bVEGF₁₂₀ est glycosylé.
8. Procédé selon la revendication 1 ou 2, dans lequel hVEGF₁₂₁ ou bVEGF₁₂₀ est un homodimère dans lequel les deux sous-unités ne sont pas glycosylées.
45
9. Procédé selon la revendication 1 ou 2, dans lequel hVEGF₁₂₁ ou bVEGF₁₂₀ est un homodimère dans lequel les deux sous-unités sont glycosylées.
10. Procédé selon la revendication 1 ou 2, dans lequel hVEGF₁₂₁ ou bVEGF₁₂₀ est un hétérodimère dans lequel l'une des deux sous-unités est glycosylée et l'autre n'est pas glycosylée.
50
11. Procédé selon la revendication 2, dans lequel le polypeptidique exprimé est un analogue de hVEGF₁₂₁ dans lequel le résidu cystéine en position 116 a été remplacé par un résidu acide aminé différent.
- 55 12. Procédé de préparation d'un facteur de croissance chimère comprenant une première et une seconde chaînes polypeptidiques, lesdites chaînes étant liées par liaison disulfure, dans lequel la première chaîne polypeptidique comprend au moins une partie de la séquence d'acides aminés soit de la sous-unité chaîne A soit de la sous-unité chaîne B de facteur de croissance dérivé de plaquettes sanguines, et la seconde chaîne polypeptidique est

EP 0 484 401 B1

bVEGF₁₂₀ ou hVEGF₁₂₁, ledit procédé comprenant :

- 5
- (a) l'insertion d'une séquence d'ADN codant chaque chaîne désirée dans un vecteur d'expression approprié;
(b) la transformation d'une unique cellule hôte ou de deux cellules hôtes séparées par les vecteurs d'expression;
(c) l'expression et la récupération des chaînes polypeptidiques; et
(d) la formation d'un hétérodimère à liaison disulfure des chaînes polypeptidiques.
- 10
13. Procédé de préparation d'une protéine servant à inhiber l'angiogénèse, comprenant un hétérodimère de deux sous-unités différentes, dont l'une est hVEGF₁₂₁ et dont l'autre est hVEGF₁₈₅, ayant la séquence d'acides aminés 1 à 165 représentés à la figure 7, ou hVPF₁₈₉ (facteur de perméabilité vasculaire humain), lequel procédé comprend l'expression de hVEGF₁₂₁ et de hVEGF₁₈₅ ou hVPF₁₈₉ dans des hôtes séparés ou dans le même hôte, et la réalisation de la dimérisation.
- 15
14. Procédé de préparation d'une composition pharmaceutique comprenant, comme ingrédient actif, une protéine telle que définie dans l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, par mélange de ladite protéine avec un support pharmaceutique.
- 20
15. Procédé de préparation d'un vecteur d'expression répliquable qui comprend une séquence d'ADN codant le facteur de croissance de cellules endothéliales vasculaires bVEGF₁₂₀, ayant la séquence d'acides aminés 1 à 114 suivis par 159 à 164 représentés à la figure 6, dans laquelle l'acide aminé 114 est la lysine, ou hVEGF₁₂₁, ayant la séquence d'acides aminés 1 à 115 suivis par 160 à 165 représentés à la figure 7, dans laquelle l'acide aminé 115 est la lysine, ledit procédé comprenant la liaison de manière fonctionnelle de ladite séquence à une séquence régulatrice dans un vecteur capable de diriger l'expression de la séquence d'ADN dans une cellule hôte.
- 25
16. Procédé selon la revendication 15, dans lequel la séquence codant l'ADN comprend la séquence de nucléotides 1 à 341 suivis par les nucléotides 474 à 492 comme représentés à la figure 6.
- 30
17. Procédé selon la revendication 15, dans lequel la séquence codant l'ADN comprend la séquence de nucléotides 1 à 344 suivis par les nucléotides 477 à 495 comme représentés à la figure 7.
- 35
18. Procédé de préparation d'une cellule hôte transformée, ledit procédé comprenant la transformation d'une cellule hôte par un vecteur tel que défini dans l'une quelconque des revendications 15 à 17.
- 40
19. Procédé selon la revendication 18, dans lequel la cellule hôte est E. coli.
- 45
20. Procédé selon la revendication 18, dans lequel la cellule hôte est une cellule eucaryote.
- 50
21. Procédé selon la revendication 20, dans lequel la cellule hôte est une cellule (CHO).
- 55

Sequence

1 AAGCTTGAAG TTCATGGACG TCTACCAGCG CNNNNTCTGC CGTCCCACATCG AGACCCCTGGT
 1 AAGCTTGAAG TTTATGGACG TCTACCAGCG CNNNNTCTGC CGTCCCACATCG AGACCCCTGGT
 2 AAGCTTGAAG TTTATGGACG TCTACCAGCG CNNNNTCTGC CGTCCCACATCG AGACCCCTGGT
 3 AAGCTTGAAG TTTATGGACG TCTACCAGCG CNNNNTCTGC CGTCCCACATCG AGACCCCTGGT
 4 AAGCTTGAAG TTTATGGACG TCTACCAGCG CAGCTTCTGC CGTCCCACATCG AGACCCCTGGT
 5 AAGCTTGAAG TTTATGGACG TCTACCAGCG CAGCTTCTGC CGTCCCACATCG AGACCCCTGGT

Consensus AAGCTTGAAG TTYATGGAYG TCTACCAGCG CAGCTTCTGC CGTCJCACATCG AGACCCCTGGT

61

1 GGACATCTTT CAGGAATACC CCGAATTTC
 2 GGACATCTTT CAGGAGTACC CCGAATTTC
 3 GGACATCTTC CAGGAATACC CCGAATTTC
 4 GGACATCTTC CAAGAGTACC CCGAATTTC
 5 GGATATCTTC CAGGAATACC CCGAATTTC

Consensus GGAYATCTTY CARGARTACC CCGAATTTC

The translation of number 5 PCR clone (pET-19A)

AAGCTTG AAG TTC ATG GAT GTC TAC CAG CGC AGC TTC TGC CGT CCC ATC
 Lys Phe Met Asp Val Tyr Gln Arg Ser Phe Cys Arg Pro Ile

GAG ACC CTG GTG GAT ATC TTC CAG GAA TAC CCC GAA TTC
 Glu Thr Leu Val Asp Ile Phe Gln Glu Tyr Pro

FIG. 1

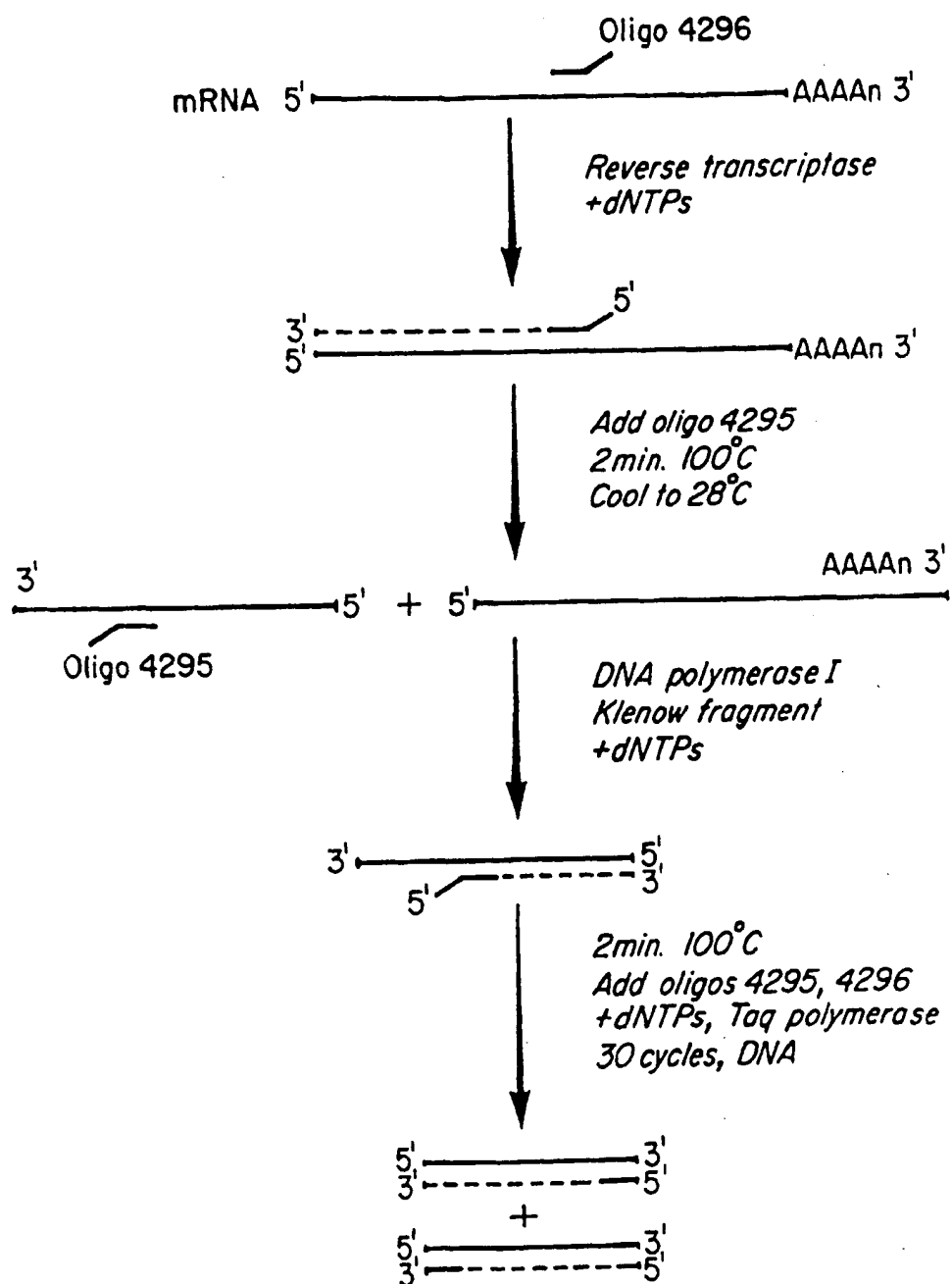


FIG. 2

FIG. 30-1

Ala	Pro	Met	Ala	Glu	Gly	Gly	Gln	Lys	Pro	His	Glu	Val	Val	TG	AAG	TTC	
																	7
ATG	GAT	GTC	TAC	CAG	CGC	AGC	TTC	TGC	CGT	CCC	ATC	GAG	ACC	CTG	GTG		
Met	Asp	Val	Tyr	Gln	Arg	Ser	Phe	Cys	Arg	Pro	Ile	Glu	Thr	Leu	Val		
																	50
GAC	ATC	TTC	CAG	GAG	TAC	CCA	GAT	GAG	ATT	GAG	TTC	ATT	TTC	AAG	CCG		
Asp	Ile	Phe	Gln	Glu	Tyr	Pro	Asp	Glu	Ile	Glu	Phe	Ile	Phe	Lys	Pro		
																	100
TCC	TGT	GTG	CCC	CTG	ATG	CGG	TGC	GGG	GGC	TGC	TGT	AAT	GAC	GAA	AGT		
Ser	Cys	Val	Pro	Leu	Met	Arg	Cys	Gly	Gly	Cys	Cys	Asn	Asp	Glu	Ser		
																	150
CTG	GAG	TGT	GTG	CCC	ACT	GAG	GAG	TTC	AAC	ATC	ACC	ATG	CAG	ATT	ATG		
Leu	Glu	Cys	Val	Pro	Thr	Glu	Glu	Glu	Phe	Asn	Ile	Thr	Met	Gln	Ile	Met	
																	200
CGG	ATC	AAA	CCT	CAC	CAA	AGC	CAG	CAC	ATA	GGA	GAG	ATG	AGC	TTC	CTA		
Arg	Ile	Lys	Pro	His	Gln	Ser	Gln	His	Ile	Gly	Glu	Met	Ser	Phe	Leu		
																	250

FIG. 3D-2

300
 CAG CAT AAC AAA TGT GAA TGC AGA CCA AAG AAA GAT AAA GCA AGG CAA
 Gln His Asn Lys Cys Glu Cys Arg Pro Lys Lys Asp Lys Ala Arg Gln

326
 GAA AAA TGT GAC AAG CCG AGG CGG TGA GCCGGGCTGG AGGAAGGAGC
 Glu Lys Cys Asp Lys Pro Arg Arg .

CTCCCTCAGG GTTTCGGGAA CCAGACGTCT CACCAGGAAA GACTGACACA
 GAACTACCCA TAGCCGCCGC CACCACCACC ACACCACCAC CACCACCATC
 GACAGAACAA TCCTGAATCC AGAAACCTGA CATGAAGGAA GAGGAGGCTG
 TGGCAGAGC ACTTTGGGTC CGGAGCGTGA GGCTCCGCAG AAGCATTCT
 GGGCGGGTGA CCCAGCACGG TTCTCTTTGG AATTGGATTG CCATTTTATT
 TCTCTTGCTG CTAAATCACC GAGCCCCGGA GATTAGAGAG TTTTATTCT
 GGGATTCCCTG TAGACACACC CACCCACATA CACACATACA TTTATATATA
 TATATATATT ATATATATAA AAATAAATAT ATATATTTT ATATATATAT
 AAAATATATA TATTCCTTTA AAAAAAAAAA AAAAAAAAAA AAAAAA

5' C ATG GCC CCA ATG GCC GAG GGC GGC CAG
 AAG CCC CAC GAG GTG GTG AAG TTC ATG GAT GT 3'
 3' CGG GGT TAC CGG CTC CCG CCG GTC TTC GGG
 GTG CTC CAC CAC TTC AAG TAC CTA CAG A 5'
 (Met)Ala Pro Met Ala Glu Gly Gln Lys Pro His
 Glu Val Val Lys Phe Met Asp Val Tyr

FIG. 3b

CGGATCCG

ATGAGGACCTTGGCTTGCCTGCTGCTCCTCGGCTGCGGATACCTCGCCCATGTT
M R T L A C L L L L G C G Y L A H V

CTGGCCGAGGAAGCCGAGATCCCCCGGAGGTGATCGAGAGGCTGGCCCGCAGT
L A E E A E I P R E V I E R L A R S

CAGATCCACAGCATCCGGGACCTCCAGCGACTCCTGGAGATAGACTCCGTAGGG
Q I H S I R D L Q R L L E I D S V G

AGTGAGGATTCTTTGGACACCAGCCTGAGAGCTCACGGGGTCCATGCCACTAAG
S E D S L D T S L R A H G V H A T K

CATGTGCCCCGAGAAGCGGCCCTGCCCATTCGGAGGAAGAGAAGCATCGAGGAA
H V P E K R P L P I R R K R S I E E

GCTGTCCCCGCTGTCTGCAAGACCAGGACGGTCATTTACGAGATTCTCGGAGT
A V P A V C K T R I V I Y E I P R S

CAGGTGACCCCCACGTCCGCCAACTTCCTGATCTGGCCCCCGTGCGTGGAGGTG
Q V D P T S A N F L I W P P C V E V

AAACGCTGCACCGGCTGCTGCAACACGAGCAGTGTCAAGTGCCAGCCCTCCCGC
K R C T G C C N T S S V K C Q P S R

GTCCACCACCGCAGCGTCAAGGTGGCCAAGGTGGAATACGTCAGGAAGAAGCCA
V H E R S V K V A K V E Y V R K K P

AAATTAAGAAGTCCAGGTGAGGTTAGAGGAGCATTGGAGTGCGCCTGCGCG
K L K E V Q V R L E E H L E C A C A

ACCACAAGCCTGAATCCGATTATCGGGAAGAGGACACGGGAAGGCCTAGGGAG
T T S L N P D Y R E E D T G R P R E

TCAGGTAAAAACGGAAAAGAAAAAGGTTAAAACCCACC GGATATCC
S G K K R K R K R L K P T

FIG. 4 -I

CGGATCCG
 ATGAATCGCTGCTGGGCGCTCTTCCTGTCTCTCTGCTGCTACCTGCGTCTGGTC
 M N R C W A L F L S L C C Y L R L V
 AGCGCCGAGGGGGACCCCATTCCTGAGGAGCTTTATGAGATGCTGAGTGACCAC
 S A E G D P I P E E L Y E M L S D H
 TCGATCCGCTCCTTTGATGATCTCCAACGCCTGCTGCACGGAGACCCCGGAGAG
 S I R S F D D L Q R L L H G D P G E
 GAAGATGGGGCCGAGTTGGACCTGAACATGACCCGCTCCCACTCTGGAGGCGAG
 E D G A E L D L N M T R S H S G G E
 CTGGAGAGCTTGGCTCGTGAAGAAGGAGCCTGGGTTCCCTGACCATTGCTGAG
 L E S L A R G R R S L G S L T I A E
 CCGGCCATGATCGCCGAGTGCAAGACGCGCACCGAGGTGTTGAGATCTCCCGG
 P A M I A E C K T R T E V F E I S R
 CGCCTCATAGACCGCACCAACGCCAACTTCCTGGTGTGGCCGCCCTGTGTGGAG
 R L I D R T N A N F L V W P P C V E
 GTGCAGCGCTGCTCCGGCTGCTGCAACAACCGCAACGTGCAGTGCCGCCCCACC
 V Q R C S G C C N N R N V Q C R P T
 CAGGTGCAGCTGCGACCTGTCCAGGTGAGAAAGATCGAGATTGTGCGGAAGAAG
 Q V Q L R P V Q V R K I E I V R K K
 CCAATCTTTAAGAAGGCCACGGTGACGCTGGAAGACCACCTGGCATGCAAGTGT
 P I F K K A T V T L E D H L A C K C
 GAGACAGTGGCAGCTGCACGGCCTGTGACCCGAAGCCCGGGGGTTCACAGGAG
 E T V A A A R P V T R S P G G S Q E
 CAGCGAGCCAAAACGCCCAAACCTCGGGTGACCATTCGGACGGTGCGAGTCCCG
 Q R A K T P Q T R V T I R T V R V R
 CGGCCCCCAAGGGCAAGCACCGGAAATTCAAGCACACGCATGACAAGACGGCA
 R P P K G K H R K F K H T H D K T A
 CTGAAGGAGACCCTTGGAGCC GGATATCC
 L K E T L G A

FIG. 4-2

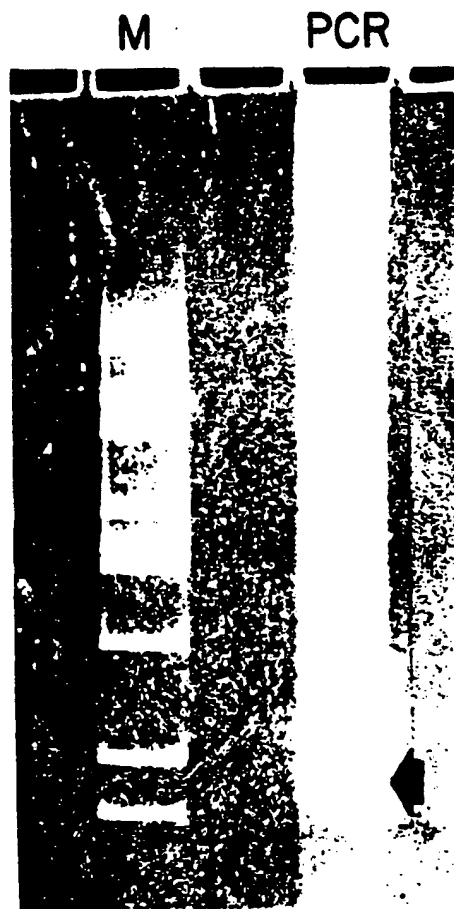


FIG. 5

1 GCA CCC ATG GCA GAA GGA GGG CAG AAA CCC CAC GAA GTG GTG AAG TTC
 Ala Pro Met Ala Glu Gly Gly Gln Lys Pro His Glu Val Val Lys Phe
 1 49
 ATG GAT GTC TAC CAG CGC AGC TTC TGC CGT CCC ATC GAG ACC CTG GTG
 Met Asp Val Tyr Gln Arg Ser Phe Cys Arg Pro Ile Glu Thr Leu Val
 20
 97
 GAC ATC TTC CAG GAG TAC CCA GAT GAG ATT GAG TTC ATT TTC AAG CCG
 Asp Ile Phe Gln Glu Tyr Pro Asp Glu Ile Glu Phe Ile Phe Lys Pro
 40
 145
 TCC TGT GTG CCC CTG ATG CCG TGC GGG GGC TGC TGT AAT GAC GAA AGT
 Ser Cys Val Pro Leu Met Arg Cys Gly Gly Cys Asn Asp Glu Ser
 60
 193
 CTG GAG TGT GTG CCC ACT GAG GAG TTC AAC ATC ACC ATG CAG ATT ATG
 Leu Glu Cys Val Pro Thr Glu Glu Phe Asn Ile Thr Met Gln Ile Met
 80
 241
 CCG ATC AAA CCT CAC CAA AGC CAG CAC ATA GGA GAG ATG AGC TTC CTA
 Arg Ile Lys Pro His Gln Ser Gln His Ile Gly Glu Met Ser Phe Leu
 289
 CAG CAT AAC AAA TGT GAA TGC AGA CCA AAG AAA GAT AAA GCA AGG CAA
 Gln His Asn Lys Cys Glu Cys Arg Pro Lys Lys Asp Lys Ala Arg Gln
 100

FIG. 6-1

337 GAA AAT CCC TGT GGG CCT TGC TCA GAG CGG AGA AAG CAT TTG TTT GTA
 Glu Asn Pro Cys Gly Pro Cys Ser Glu Arg Arg Lys His Leu Phe Val
 Glu Ly 120

385 CAA GAT CCG CAG ACG TGT AAA TGT TCC TGC AAA AAC ACA GAC TCG CGT
 Gln Asp Pro Gln Thr Cys Lys Cys Ser Cys Lys Asn Thr Asp Ser Arg
 140

433 TGC AAG GCG AGG CAG CTT GAG TTA AAC GAA CGT ACT TGC AGA TGT GAC
 Cys Lys Ala Arg Gln Leu Glu Leu Asn Glu Arg Thr Cys Arg
 s Cys Asp

481 AAG CCG AGG CGG TGA GCCGGGCTGG AGGAAGGAGC CTCCTCAGG GTTTCGGGAA
 Lys Pro Arg Arg . 164
 Lys Pro Arg Arg . 120

536 CCAGACGTCT CACCAGGAAA GACTGACACA GAACTACCCA TAGCCGCCCGC

586 CACCACCACC ACACCACCAC CACCACCATC GACAGAACAA TCCTGAATCC

636 AGAAACCTGA CATGAAGGAA GAGGAGGCTG TGCGCAGAGC ACTTTGGGTC

FIG. 6-2

686 CGGAGCGTGA GGCTCCGCAG AAGCATTCAT GGGCGGGTGA CCCAGCACGG
736 TTCCTCTTGG AATTGGATTG CCATTTATT TCTCTTGCTG CTAATCACC
786 GAGCCCGGAA GATTAGAGAG TTTTATTTCT GGGATTCCCTG TAGACACACC
836 CACCCACATA CACACATACA TTTATATATA TATATATT ATATATATA
886 AAATAAATAT ATATATTTTA TATATATATA AAATATATAT ATTCTTTTA
936 AAAAAAAAAA AAAAAAAAAA AAAAAA

FIG. 6-3

FIG. 7-I

1	Ala	Pro	Met	Ala	Glu	Gly	Gly	Gln	Asn	His	His	Glu	Val	Val	Lys
	GCA	CCC	ATG	GCA	GAA	GGA	GGG	CAG	AAT	CAT	CAC	GAA	GTG	GTG	AAG
1															
	Phe	Met	Asp	Val	Tyr	Gln	Arg	Ser	Tyr	Cys	His	Pro	Ile	Glu	Thr
	TTC	ATG	GAT	GTC	TAT	CAG	CGC	AGC	TAC	TGC	CAT	CCA	ATC	GAG	ACC
49															
	Val	Asp	Ile	Phe	Gln	Glu	Tyr	Pro	Asp	Glu	Ile	Glu	Tyr	Ile	Phe
	GTG	GAC	ATC	TTC	CAG	GAG	TAC	CCT	GAT	GAG	ATC	GAG	TAC	ATC	TTC
97															
	Pro	Ser	Cys	Val	Pro	Leu	Met	Arg	Cys	Gly	Gly	Cys	Cys	Asn	Asp
	CCA	TCC	TGT	GTG	CCC	CTG	ATG	CGA	TGC	GGG	GGC	TGC	TGC	AAT	GAC
145															
	Gly	Leu	Glu	Cys	Val	Pro	Thr	Glu	Glu	Ser	Asn	Ile	Thr	Met	Gln
	GGC	CTG	GAG	TGT	GTG	CCC	ACT	GAG	GAG	TCC	AAC	ATC	ACC	ATG	CAG
193															

90
 Met Arg Ile Lys Pro His Gln Gly Gln His Ile Gly Glu Met Ser Phe
 ATG CGG ATC AAA CCT CAC CAC CAG CAG ATA GGA GAG ATG AGC TTC
 241
 100
 Leu Gln His Asn Lys Cys Glu Cys Arg Pro Lys Lys Asp Arg Ala Arg
 CTA CAG CAC AAC AAA TGT GAA TGC AGA CCA AAG AAA GAT AGA GCA AGA
 289 ... Arg
 120
 Gln Glu [Asn Pro Cys Gly Pro Cys Ser Glu Arg Arg Lys His Leu Phe
 CAA GAA AAT CCC TGT GGT GGG CCT TGC TCA GAG CGG AGA AAG CAT TTG TTT
 Gln Glu Ly
 337
 130
 Val Gln Asp Pro Gln Thr Cys Lys Cys Ser Cys Lys Asn Thr Asp Ser
 GTA CAA GAT CCG CAG ACG TGT AAA TGT TCC TGC AAA AAC ACA GAC TCG
 385
 150
 Arg Cys Lys Ala Arg Gln Leu Glu Leu Asn Glu Arg Thr Cys Arg
 CGT TGC AAG GCG AGG CAG CTT GAG TTA AAC GAA CGT ACT TGC AGA TGT
 433 s Cys
 165
 Asp Lys Pro Arg Arg
 GAC AAG CCG AGG CGG TGA
 Asp Lys Pro Arg Arg
 121
 481

FIG. 7-2

FIG. 8-1

-26
Met Asn Phe Leu Leu Ser
ATG AAC TTT CTG CTG TCT

Exon I
Trp Val His Trp Ser Leu Ala Leu Leu Leu Tyr Leu His His Ala Lys
TGG GTG CAT TGG AGC CTT GCC TTG CTG CTC CTC CAC CAT GCC AAG

+1 -1
Trp Ser Gln Ala Ala
TGG TCC CAG GCT GCA

gtaagcggtcgtgc.....tctcttctgtcctcag

Exon II
Pro Met Ala Glu Gly Gly Gly Gln Asn His His Glu V
CCC ATG GCA GAA GGA GGA GGG CAG AAT CAT CAC GAA G gtgagtcctccctg

gctg.....catcgccctctcatgcag TG GTG AAG TTC ATG GAT GTC TAT

al Val Lys Phe Met Asp Val Tyr

Exon III
Gln Arg Ser Tyr Cys His Pro Ile Glu Thr Leu Val Asp Ile Phe Gln
CAG CGC AGC TAC TGC CAT CCA ATC GAG ACC CTG GTG GAC ATC TTC CAG

Glu Tyr Pro Asp Glu Ile Glu Tyr Ile Phe Lys Pro Ser Cys Val Pro
GAG TAC CCT GAT GAG ATC GAG TAC ATC TTC AAG CCA TCC TGT GTG CCC

Leu Met Arg Cys Gly Gly Cys Cys Asn Asp Glu Gly Leu Glu Cys Val
CTG ATG CGA TGC GGC GGC TGC TGC AAT GAC GAG GGC GGC CTG GAG TGT GTG

Pro Thr Glu Glu Ser Asn Ile Thr Met Gln
 CCC ACT GAG GAG TCC AAC ATC ACC ATG CAG gtgggcacatcttgggaa.....

.....gcttccttcctttccag ATT ATG CGG ATC AAA CCT CAC CAA GGC
 Ile Met Arg Ile Lys Pro His Gln Gly

Exon IV
 Gln His Ile Gly Glu Met Ser Phe Leu Gln His Asn Lys Cys Glu Cys
 CAG CAC ATA GGA GAG ATG AGC TTC CTA CAG CAC AAC AAA TGT GAA TGC

Ar
 AG gtgaggatgtagtcag.....ctccctaccattgc

Exon V
 g Pro Lys Lys Asp Arg Ala Arg Gln Glu LY
 ag A CCA AAG AAA GAT AGA GCA AGA CAA GAA AA gtaagtggccctgactt..

.....gttttttattttccag A AAA TCA GTT CGA GGA AAG GGA AAG
 s Lys Ser Val Arg Gly Lys Gly Lys

Exon VI
 Gly Gln Lys Arg Lys Arg Lys Lys Ser Arg Tyr Lys Ser Trp Ser Va
 GGG CAA AAA CGA AAG CGC AAG AAA TCC CGG TAT AAG TCC TGG AGC GT

FIG. 8-2

gtacgttggtgcccgct.....ctttgaccttttgcag T CCC TGT GGG CCT
 1 Pro Cys Gly Pro

Cys Ser Glu Arg Arg Lys His Leu Phe Val Gln Asp Pro Gln Thr Cys
 TGC TCA GAG CGG AGA AAG CAT TTG TTT GTA CAA GAT CCG CAG ACG TGT

Exon VII

Lys Cys Ser Cys Lys Asn Thr Asp Ser Arg Cys Lys Ala Arg Gln Leu
 AAA TGT TCC TGC TGC AAA AAC ACA GAC TCG CGT TGC AAG GCG AGG CAG CTT

Glu Leu Asn Glu Arg Thr Cys Ar
 GAG TTA AAC GAA CGT ACT TGC AG gttggttcccagaggca.....ttttccattt

Exon VIII

9 Cys Asp Lys Pro Arg Arg
 ccctcag A TGT GAC AAG CCG AGG CGG TGA

FIG. 8-3

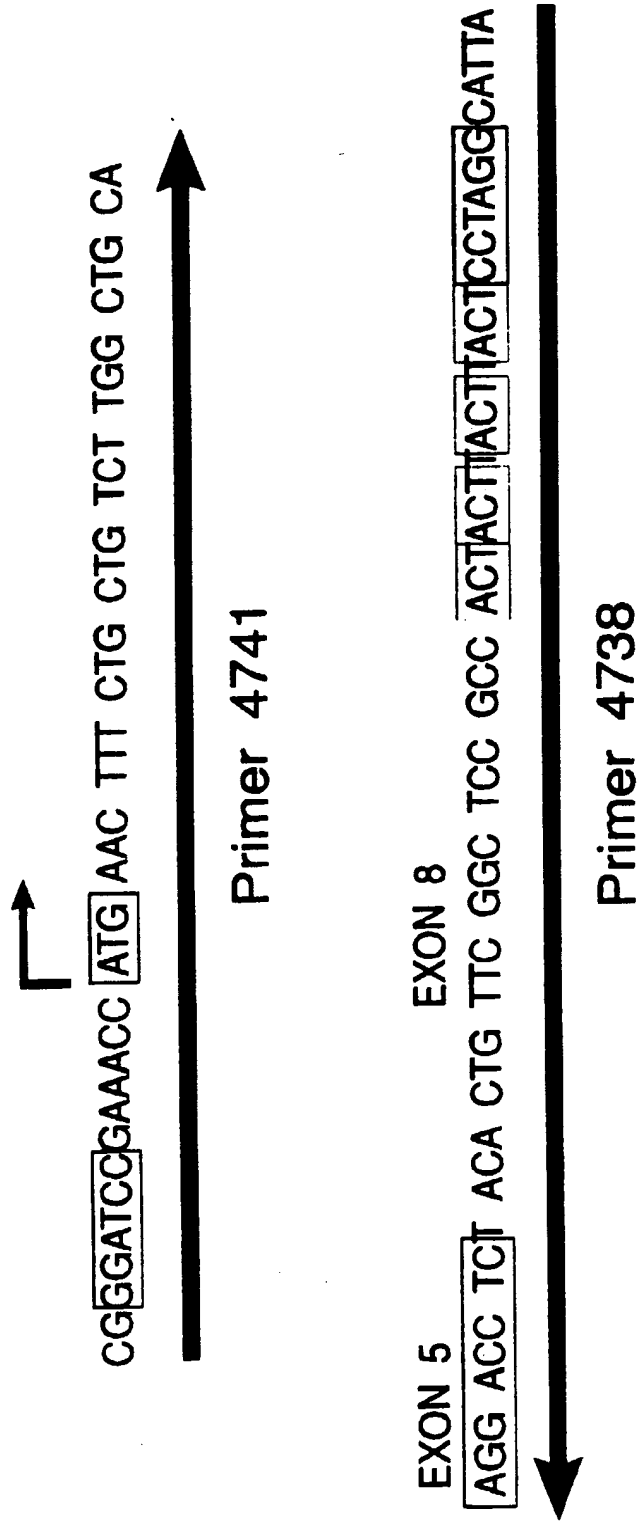


FIG. 9

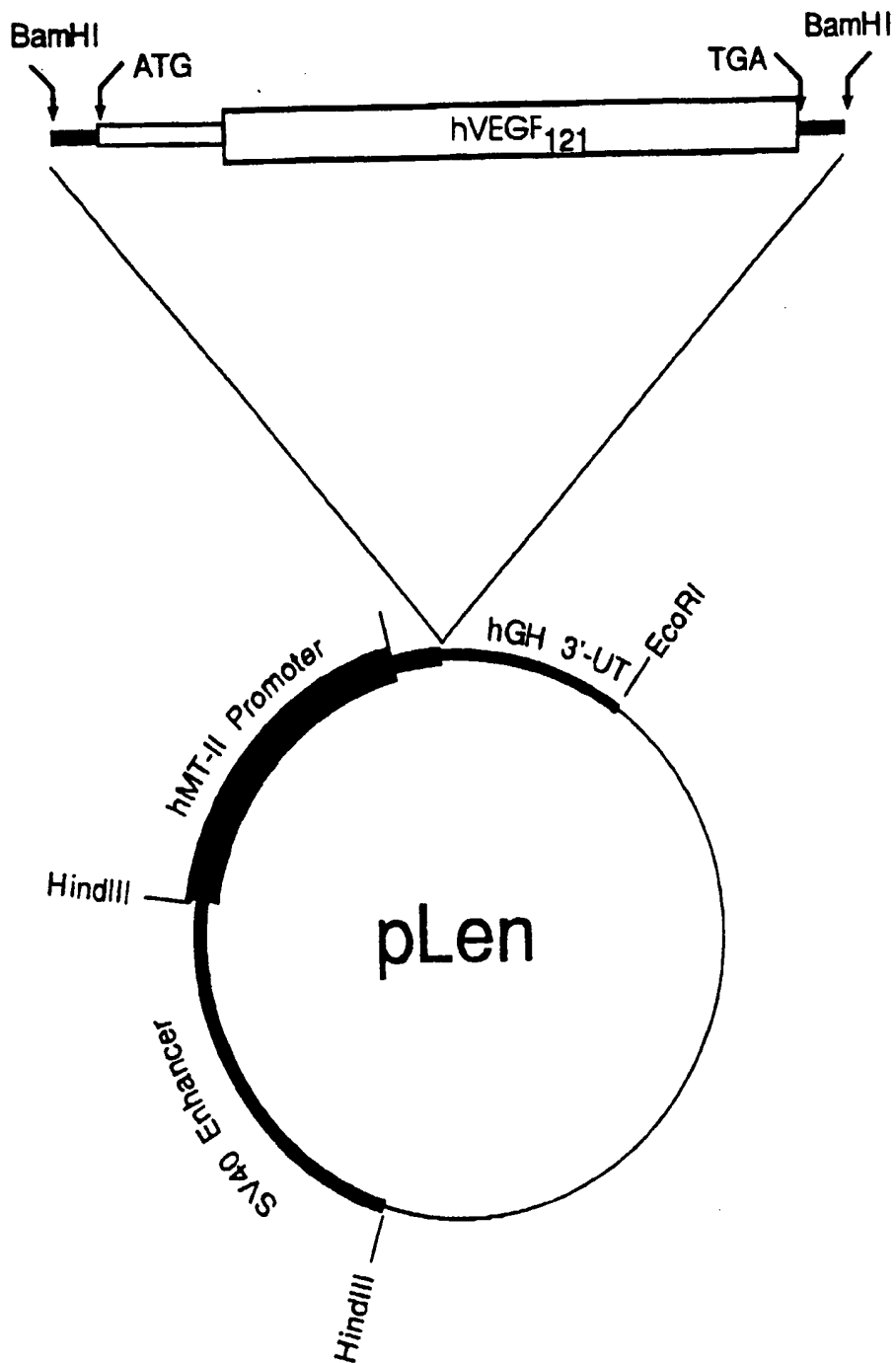


FIG. 10a

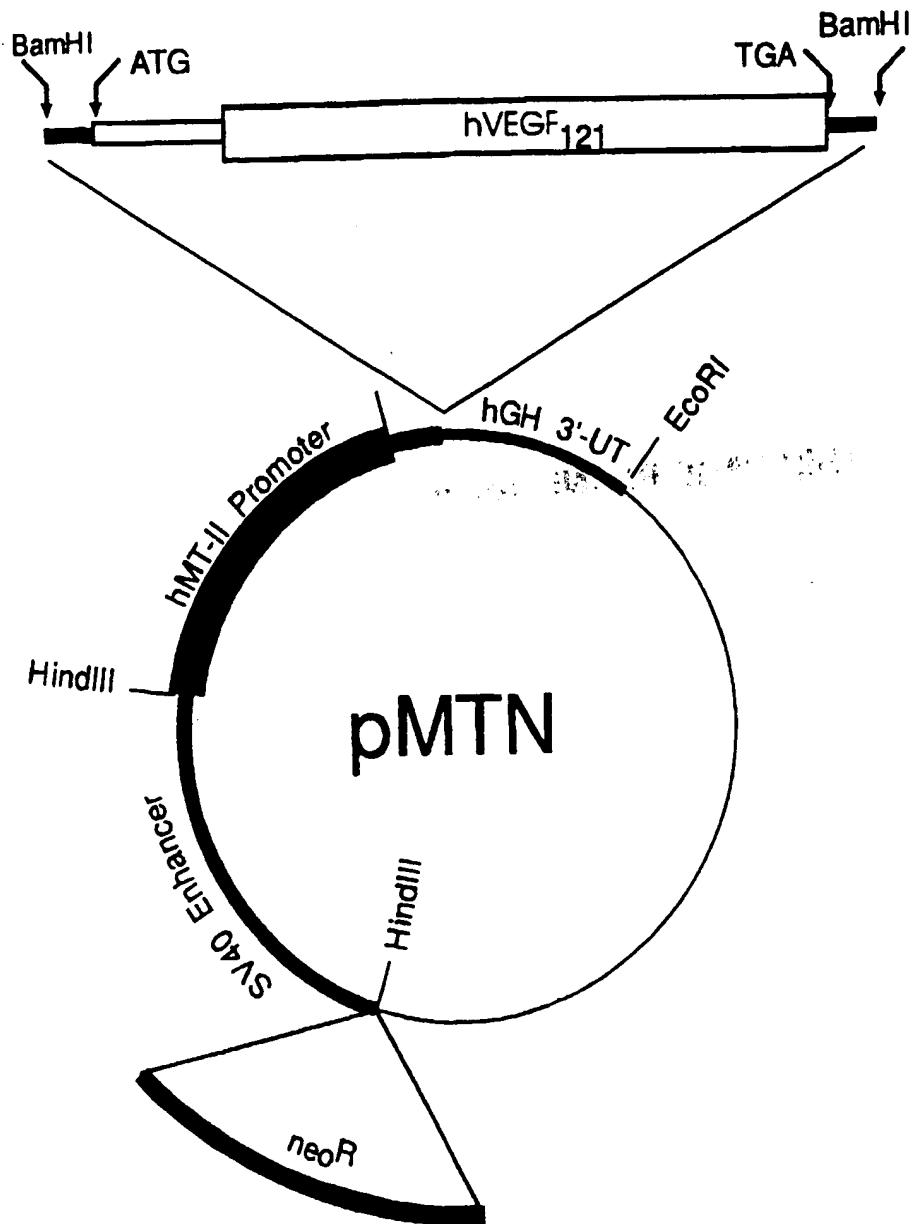


FIG. 10b

THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- ☐ **BLACK BORDERS**
- ☐ **IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**
- ☐ **FADED TEXT OR DRAWING**
- ☐ **BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING**
- ☐ **SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**
- ☐ **COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**
- ☐ **GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**
- ☐ **LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**
- ☐ **REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY**
- ☐ **OTHER:** _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.

THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO;